



St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church



13th



Convention

Coptic Orthodox Ontario League 2011

For students completing grades 7 & 8

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

- Revelation 2:7

August 19-21

Durham College (UOIT): 2000 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa, Ontario

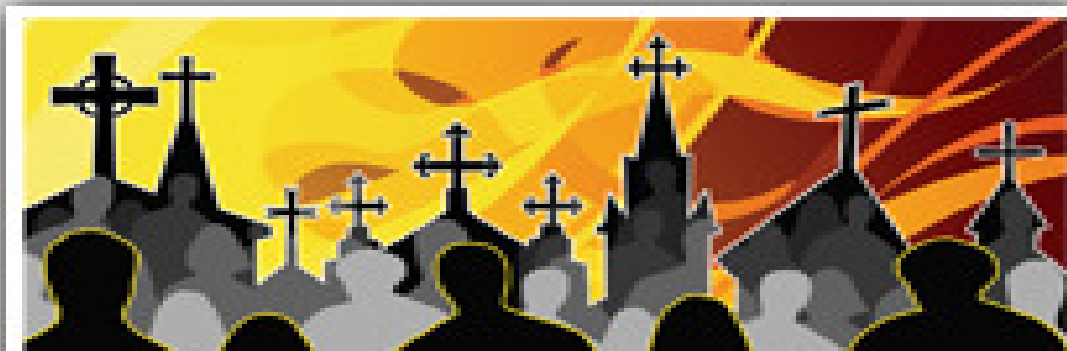


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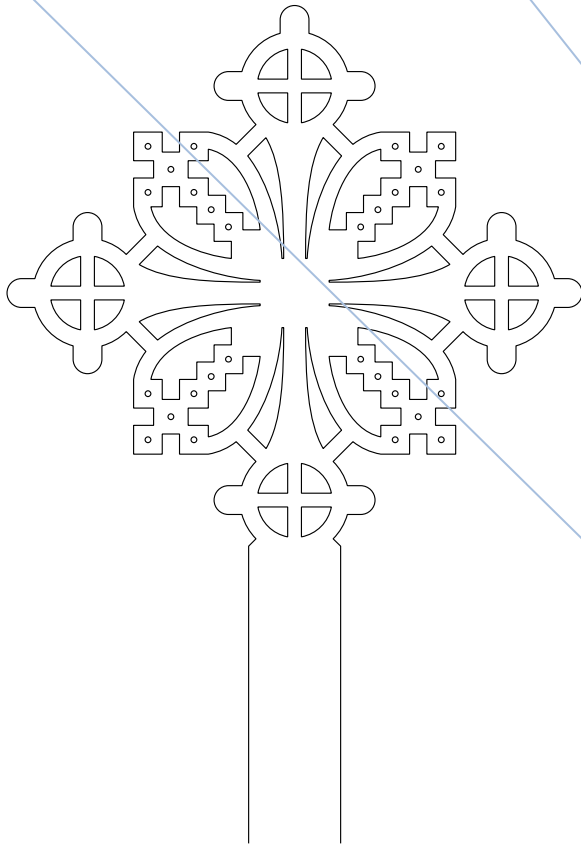
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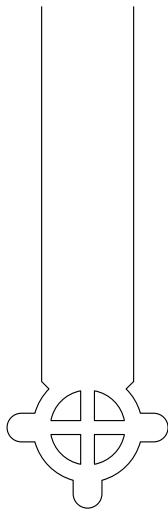
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Part I: Topics

The 13th Annual C.O.O.L. Convention – Students who
have completed Grades 7 and 8 – Summer 2011

St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church
Hamilton, Ontario - Canada





Christ Is Our Life

There is no doubt that the Lord Jesus Christ is our life as St. Paul said: "For to me, to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21). Also, regarding "Wisdom" (or the Logos, the second Hypostasis of the Holy Trinity), the Book of Proverbs states "For whoever finds me finds life" (Proverbs 8:35). Christ is our life in many ways. He gives us life (body and soul). He gives us the privilege to be children of God and to inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Therefore, through the grace of God, Mahragan Al-Keraza took this as the 2011 theme for all study material, research and competitions.

Who is Christ?

This is what we believe about Christ:

- 1- **He is a Person (Hypostasis) of the Holy Trinity**
- 2- **He is God the Creator**
- 3- **He is God Incarnate**
- 4- **He is the Good Teacher**
- 5- **He is the Good Shepherd**
- 6- **He is the Redeemer**
- 7- **He resurrected from the dead for our sake**
- 8- **He ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us**
- 9- **He is the head and the Bridegroom of the Church**
- 10- **He will bring us up to His Kingdom to enjoy everlasting life.**
- 1- **Christ is a Person of the Holy Trinity**

We believe in one God, as we say in our Orthodox Creed. He is One because He is Unlimited. If we suppose that there was more than one god, each one would be limited by the existence of the other. There can be no more than one who is unlimited. Our God is Unlimited and Infinite.

We can use "**the sun**" as an analogy for the Trinity:

The sun = light + fire + heat

Light + fire + heat = One sun

Light, fire and heat are different from each other but yet they are in unity with each other in the one sun.

If the sun loses its light or its fire or its heat it will lose its identity as a sun.





So, they are three in one, $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$ God (Essence) and $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$ (Hypostasis) The Holy Trinity

We call God the Father because He is the first person of the Trinity. We call God the Son because He is begotten from the Father as the light comes forth from the fire or the word from the mind... We call God the Holy Spirit because He proceeds from the Father from the beginning. The heat comes from the sun not from the light, but rays carry it to us. The light comes from the fire and the heat proceeds from it and the three are in one sun.

2- **Christ is God the Creator**

God the Father created the universe through the power of His Word and His Holy Spirit. Man is composed of a body, a soul, and a spirit. We all know man to be one being, not three, in spite of his triune composition. The body is different from the soul which is different from the spirit; however they still make one man. The Father and His Word and His Spirit are one God. Three distinguished Persons (Hypostases) in unity without separation from one another. That is why our Lord Jesus said: "I and My Father are one." (John 10:30).

Concerning the Logos (The Word of God), the book of Proverbs says, "I, wisdom,I have been established from everlasting,From the beginning, before there was ever an earth..... Then I was beside Him (The Father) as a master craftsman." (Prov. 8:12 & 23 & 30)

The Book of Genesis says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light". (Genesis 1:1-3)

The presence of the Holy Trinity is evident, God the Father, God the Logos (Word), and God the Holy Spirit. The members of the Trinity worked together in the creation.

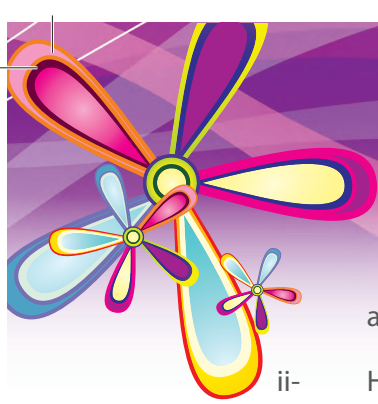
3- **Christ is the Incarnated God**

Isaiah prophesied about the birth of Christ, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). Isaiah also described Him, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David" (Isaiah 9:6-7). So, He is a little boy, who would become a man, at the same time He is the almighty and eternal God. He resembled us in everything except sin.

Jesus has two births:

- i- An eternal and omnipotent birth because He was "begotten from the Father before





all ages" (like the light coming out of the fire or the word coming out of the mind)

- ii- His birth from St. Mary the virgin, in the mystery of incarnation.

God revealed Himself in the Old Testament in different ways. He appeared as a man to Abraham (Genesis 18), to Jacob (Genesis 32), to Joshua (Joshua 5), to Gideon (Judges 6) and to Daniel (Daniel 10).

Balaam prophesied about the Star coming out of Jacob to lead the wise men to the Divine Child. Also the angels announced the birth of the savior the Son of God, "Therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God". (Luke 1:35)

4- **Christ is the Good Teacher**

In the history of humanity, Jesus was the greatest teacher to have ever lived. He is the only One Who is Holy and without sin. He is a man, possessing the full human nature, and He is Holy, having the full divine nature. The two natures are united in one unique nature. The analogy we may use is the unity of the soul and body with the body, which are of two different natures, in the one human nature.

When Jesus Christ taught, all people were amazed at His teaching. Ghandi once said, "If the Bible was a crown, the Sermon on the mountain would be its most precious stone"

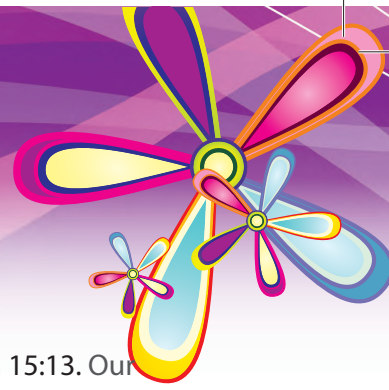
Jesus taught us everything we need to know to live a good life here and prepare for everlasting life. He gave us the Sermon on the Mountain, the parables, and all the other teachings in the Gospels.

5- **Christ is the Good Shepherd**

He is the Good shepherd Who took care of His children with all love and kindness. He found them as sheep without a shepherd; He healed their sicknesses and banded their wounds. He had compassion on them as He did with the young man who was deaf and mute "He said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." Mark 7:34. Immediately his ears were opened, and he spoke plainly. We also see His compassion when He wept at Lazarus's tomb, and when He said to Judas who had betrayed Him, "Friend, why have you come?" Matthew 26:50

He is the Good Shepherd through His love, His teaching and His kindness. He takes care of us every day from sunrise to sunset. He makes His sun shine on righteous and sinners. He does not wish the death of the sinner as he repents and lives.





6- Christ is the Redeemer

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" John 15:13. Our Lord Jesus Christ redeemed us on the cross. By His redemption He solved two problems:

- 1- The sentence of death that brought upon us because of our sins. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).
- 2- The human nature was corrupted by the original sin which was transmitted to all humanity.

On the cross Jesus died on our behalf and thus:

- 1- He took the sentence of death from us as St. Peter said, "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree" 1 (Peter 2:24). In Romans 5:18, St. Paul said, "Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life". St. Athanasius the Apostolic said He died instead of us.
- 2- He cleansed us by His Holy Spirit and His precious blood, as St. John the Evangelist said, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

The cross is our salvation, just as when the Israelites looked at the bronze serpent they were saved from the fiery serpents. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14-15).

St. Paul considered that Christ was crucified for him personally. "I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" Galatians 2:20.

Let us take advantage of the blood of Christ which was shed for us and make a personal relationship with Him through prayers, reading the Bible and partaking in the Holy Communion.

7- Christ resurrected for our sake

He descended into Hades through the cross, and by this saved Adam and his sons.

He raised Himself without the help of anyone.

He resurrected with a luminous body not like Lazarus who resurrected with an earthly body and died again.





He resurrected forever and will never die again. All the people who were raised from the dead i.e. Tabitha, Jairus' daughter ... etc died again.

Like Him, we too will resurrect with a glorious body and we will live with Him forever.

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption" (1Corinthians 15:42).

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

"Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself" (Philippians 3:21).

8- **Christ ascended into Heaven to precede us**

He ascended into heaven with His glorious Body. His Divinity parted not from His humanity, but they were united forever. In His second coming as St. Paul explains, Christians who have died will receive a resurrection body (incorruptible) and those still alive will be changed to receive a glorious body.

The importance of the Ascension:

1. With Christ, man's nature also ascends.
2. Christ ascended to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to the world.
3. Christ is forever present before the Father to intercede on our behalf.
4. The Ascension is an indication of the Second Coming. Christ will return to earth in the same manner as He left it.

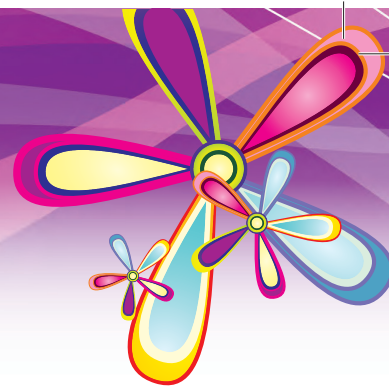
9- **Christ is the Bridegroom and the Head of the Church**

St. John the Baptist said, "He who has the bride is the bridegroom" John 3:29. Christ is the Church's Bridegroom, as St. Paul explains, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her. . . This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church" Ephesians 5:25 -32. The unity between the husband and the wife is like the unity between Christ and the Church.

We are all member of the same body and Christ is the head, if one member suffers the whole body suffers.

The church offers us many tools to help us grow in our spiritual life:





a- The Holy Sacraments

1. Baptism – gives us the second birth
2. Chrismation – makes us a temple of the Holy Spirit
3. Communion – gives us eternal life as we abide in Christ and Christ in us
4. Confession – renew our relation with God
5. Unction of the sick – heals our sickness
6. Matrimony – unites the couple with the Holy Spirit
7. Priesthood – serves all sacraments; Christ gave them the authority of absolving and binding

b- Communion of the Saints

It is the unity between the struggling church and the victorious church. They pray for us and we ask for their intercession.

c- Sayings of the Fathers

They explain the Holy Scriptures and put the foundation for our spiritual life. We can consider them as our personal guide to the kingdom of heaven.

d- Prayers (liturgies, praises, etc.) to help us during our journey on earth.

10- Christ will come again to take us so we can live with Him forever

Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" John 14:2-3.

Every day we affirm it in the Creed as we say, "we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the coming age, Amen".

"Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" Revelation 22:20.

There are many signs of the coming of Christ but no one knows the time. "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority" Acts 1:7.

The most important for us is to be ready with prayer, repentance and good deeds, so nobody would take our crown. "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown" Revelation 3:11.

Finally, Jesus' commands us all, "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" Mark 13:37.





Christ is our life

Christ is our life that is what we say in the liturgy, "for You are the life of us all, the hope us all, the healing of us all and the resurrection of us all."

St. Paul said, "For to me, to live is Christ" Philippians 1:21.

1- Physical life

"For in Him we live and move and have our being" Acts 17:28. "I, wisdom, I have been established from everlasting..... Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman" Proverbs 8:12, 23, 30. Every morning the Lord is giving us a new day, we have to build a deep relationship with Him through the Agpeya prayers, the Liturgies the arrow prayers "My Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me".

2- Spiritual life

He is the One Who reconciled us with heaven. He answered the cry of Isaiah who said, "Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down!" Isaiah 64:1 and Job "Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both" Job 9:33. Through Jesus' incarnation, redemption was fulfilled and heaven and earth were reconciled. "On earth peace." Luke 2:14.

3- Eternal life

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" John 17:3. By His redemption Jesus opened for us the doors of Paradise and granted us the resurrection with glorious bodies.

"And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" Ephesians 2:6.

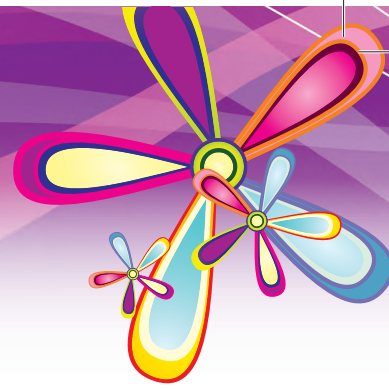
"Enter into the joy of your lord" Matthew 25: 23.

"He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" John 11:25.

"Because I live, you will live also" John 14:19.

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death" Revelation 21:3-4.





Christ is our Teacher and Role Model

Our Lord Jesus Christ is "The Holy One" (His Holiness is without limit).
Through the Holy Spirit He gave us 9 fruits. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" Galatians 5: 22-23.

From the sayings of H. H. Pope Shenouda III about the Fruit of the Spirit:

1- Love

Many people live a superficial spiritual life, and do not have the true love in their hearts. Those people just practice rituals. Enter to the depth of love ... and love never fails.

2- Joy

There is a difference between joy and pleasure.

Pleasure is related to the body and the senses, but the true joy is related to the spirit.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" Philipians 4:4

3- Peace

Peace with God Peace from God Peace with everyone.....

Peace within Don't cause any conflict but be tolerant.

4- Longsuffering

God is longsuffering.... He is longsuffering with the sinners

With longsuffering we will have compassion on the sinners.

Contemplate the tree, how it bring forth fruit after many years!

5- Kindness

If you are not kind when you deal with people, you are not a spiritual person.

6- Goodness

The negative side of goodness is to stay away from sins.





The positive side of goodness is to do what is right as shown in the Beatitudes. We should have both.

7- **Faithfulness**

We show our true faith in our daily life the way we deal with God and with others. This is the practical faith.

8- **Gentleness**

The gentle person is loved by everybody; therefore he wins people on earth, and wins eternal life as well.

The gentle person lives in peace and harmony with everybody.

9- **Self-control**

Self-control means self-discipline. It includes control of the tongue, the body, the thoughts and the emotions.

Therefore, continuance in the spiritual action needs seriousness, strong will and self-control.



Know Your Bible



What do you need to do to know the content of a book?

You can read the table of contents, read the introduction of the book, or read the comments of a reviewer. All these are useful in giving us an idea about the content of the book or its purpose. But we need to actually read of the book to be really familiar with its content.

Many people are used to reading the Bible every day as a habit without understanding the sequence of the events or how to relate between its different books. This simple introduction will help you to get the full benefit from your daily reading of the Holy Bible.

The Holy Bible teaches us that, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" 2 Timothy 3:16.

And

"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" 2 Peter 1:21.

From the previous verses we understand that the Holy Bible is a group of books written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is beneficial for every man, at all time and in all circumstances. It tells how God dealt with man across all ages. It is the book that prepares us for the eternal glory and looks after our salvation.

The Holy Bible is divided into two Testaments (Old Testament and New Testament).

The Old Testament consists of:

- 1- The Books of Moses, the Law or the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
- 2- The Historical Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st and 2nd Kings, 1st and 2nd Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther
- 3- The Poetical Books or the Wisdom Books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and Lamentations
- 4- The Prophetical Books: based on the size of the prophecy these books are divided into
 - a- Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel
 - b- Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk,





Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi

5- The Deutro-Canonical Books (sometimes referred to as Apocrypha by the Protestant commentators)

The New Testament consists of:

- 1- The four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- 2- The Praxis: Acts of the Apostles
- 3- The Pauline Epistles – 14 epistles written by St. Paul to different churches and different people: Romans, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossians, 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, 1st and 2nd Timothy, Titus, Philemon and Hebrews.
- 4- The Catholic Epistles: James, 1st and 2nd Peter, 1st, 2nd and 3rd John and Jude
- 5- The Prophetic Book: The Book of Revelation also known as the Apocalypse of St. John

What are the similarities between the Old Testament and the New Testament?

Many prophets in the Old Testament spoke about Jesus Christ. The Old Testament contains many events, signs and individuals that were symbols of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The importance of the Old Testament

What happened with the people of Israel in the past reveals to us how God deals with man at all times.

It is important to study the Old Testament because it contains many detailed prophecies about Jesus Christ thousand years before His incarnation.

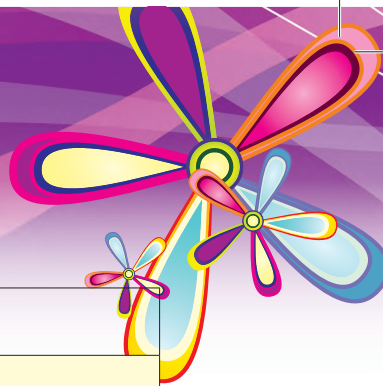
The New Testament

The church remained without a written Gospel for 20 years after the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church depended on the ministry of the disciples (the word of mouth) as eyewitnesses for the life, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the evangelists wrote the four Gospels. The letters were written to answer the believers' questions and to keep the church from the false teachers and heresies.

"Keep (memorize) the Bible and the Bible will keep you"

H. H. Pope Shenouda III





Old Testament		New Testament
<p>The 5 Books of Moses:</p> <p>Also called the Torah or the Law.</p> <p>The acts and the teachings of the Old Testament church.</p> <p>Talks about man's life (the creation, the fall and journeying to the Promised Land).</p>	<p>Our Lord Jesus Himself is the corner stone that links the two testaments together.</p>	<p>The four Gospels:</p> <p>The New Testament Law.</p> <p>The acts and the teachings of the New Testament church.</p> <p>It takes us to a new life, to the Heavenly Jerusalem (The true Promised Land).</p>
<p>The Historical Books:</p> <p>The history of God's work with his people in the new land.</p>		<p>The Acts of the Apostles:</p> <p>The history of God's work in the church through the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>The Wisdom Books:</p> <p>Explain the faith and how to live it.</p>		<p>The Epistles:</p> <p>Explain the Divinity of Christ and the details of our faith.</p>
<p>The Prophetical Books:</p> <p>Contain prophecies about the coming Christ (before the Incarnation).</p>		<p>The Book of Revelation:</p> <p>Contains Prophecies about the second coming of Christ and the end of days.</p>





An Eye Witness

The beholder of God, St. Mark the Evangelist

ID card

1. He was a Jew from the tribe of Levi
2. He was born in Cyrene in the Pentapolis of North Africa , in what is now Libya
3. His father's name was Aristopolis and his mother's name was Mary
4. He was a nephew of Barnabas
5. He had 2 names "John" a Jewish name meaning "Kindness of God" and "Mark" a latin name meaning "Hammer"
6. He mastered the Greek, the Latin and the Hebrew languages
7. His mother was among the women who followed Jesus and served Him out of their own money.
8. He was chosen by our Lord Jesus Christ as one of the seventy Apostles.
9. His house was the first church in Christianity where:
 - a) *Christ observed Passover with His disciples*
 - b) *Christ washed His disciples' feet*
 - c) *Christ instituted the Eucharist*
 - d) *The disciples met for prayer after Resurrection and before Pentecost*
 - e) *The Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles on the day of Pentecost*
 - f) *St. Peter went when the angel released him from the prison*
10. His symbol is the lion because:
 - A. *On their way to Jordan, St. Mark and his father were faced by 2 beasts (a lion and a lioness). The father realized that they were going to be devoured by the beasts and asked his son to escape. St. Mark prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ, and the lions miraculously dropped dead. This event led the artists to insert a lion in all St. Mark's icons.*
 - B. *He started his Gospel with the roar of a lion: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness"*






C. *His Gospel represents the Lord Jesus Christ in His majesty and Kingdom as He is "The lion of the tribe of Judah"*

11. He accompanied St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey but left them at Pamphilia and returned to Judea. On the second journey, he went with St. Barnabas to Cyprus.
12. He is the founder of the church in Egypt
13. He ordained Anianus as Bishop for Alexandria with 12 priests and 7 deacons.
14. On Easter eve, 68 A.D., he was seized by the pagan mob and was dragged around the city of Alexandria until he passed away. Thus, he received the crowns of Apostleship, Evangelism and Martyrdom.
15. He is the protector (intercessor) of Venice in Italy.
16. sReturn of relics in 1968
On the 17th of Baounah (Coptic month), of the year 1684 A.M. (Coptic calendar), which was Monday, June 24, 1968 A.D., and in the tenth year of the papacy of Pope Kyrillos the Sixth, 116th Pope of Alexandria, the relics of St. Mark the Apostle, the Evangelist of the Egyptian land and the first Patriarch of Alexandria, were returned to Egypt.

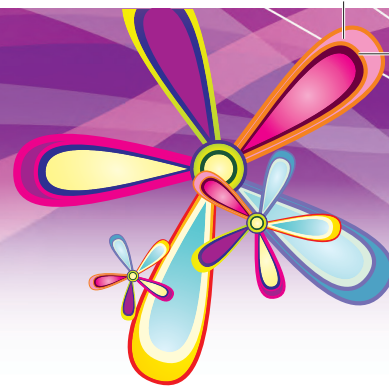
The Book of St. Mark

- i. It is the shortest Gospel (16 chapters)
 - ii. It is the first Gospel to be written
 - iii. It has most miracles of our Lord Jesus
 - iv. It has fewer parables (4 only)
 - v. Aramaic words and their meaning are used
 - vi. The word "immediately" is mentioned 42 times
1. The Gospel combines three ingredients
 - a) *Jesus teaching and preaching (What Jesus said and taught)*
 - b) *The responses of people to Jesus (What others did)*
 - c) *He presents Jesus as the Son of Man and the Son of God*
 2. In the Book of Mark we see Jesus as the Messiah coming as a servant. He reveals who He is through what He does. He explains His mission and message through His actions.
 3. The opening verse declares the Good News in Mark 1:1.



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4. The Gospel started by the active ministry of John the Baptist the forerunner of Jesus. John points to a mightier one, Jesus at Whose baptism God speaks from heaven declaring Jesus His Son.
 5. The Gospel presents Jesus acting more than speaking.
 6. To St. Mark, Jesus was not simply a man among men; He was God among men moving them to amazement with His words and deeds.
 7. St. Mark highlights the power and authority of Jesus, the Son of God as a teacher, over Satan and unclean spirits, sin, Sabbath, nature, disease, death, legalistic tradition and the temple.
 8. Although St. Mark emphasized the divine power of Christ, he often referred to His human feelings (moved with compassion, loved the rich man, felt the hunger of the crowd and their tiredness and need for rest)
 9. St. Mark used some Aramaic words as “Talitha” with Jairus daughter, “Ephphatha” with the deaf-mute man, and “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” on the cross.
 10. St. Mark alone records:
 - a) *The parable about fasting to teach us the need to fast and pray (2:19-20)*
 - b) *The parable of the growing seed (4:26-29)*
 - c) *The miracle of healing the deaf-mute man*
 - d) *The miracle of healing the blind man at Bethesda*
 - e) *It is the Gospel of action, it is the most action oriented Gospel.*
 - f) *Jesus Christ in the Book of Mark is a “Servant”.*
 11. Key Verse: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” 10:45
 12. Key doctrines
 - a) *The incarnation: St. Mark shows Christ to be God in human form.*
 - b) *Salvation: the aim of Jesus’ actions and teaching was largely to show people how to be saved and then to live as believers.*
 - c) *Eschatology: chapter 13 is devoted to teachings about the end of times.*





Questions

GENERAL

- 1- **All is true about St. Mark EXCEPT**
 - a) He was a Jew
 - b) He was from the tribe of Levi
 - c) His house was the first church in Christianity
 - d) He was a tax collector

- 2- **What is St. Mark's Symbol? Give one reason.**

- 3- **St. Mark's Jewish name was**
 - a) Simeon
 - b) Peter
 - c) John

- 4- **What does the word "Mark" means?**

- 5- **What events happened in St. Mark's house?**
 - a) Jesus washed His disciples' feet
 - b) Jesus instituted the Eucharist
 - c) The Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles on the day of the Pentecost
 - d) All of the above
 - e) a & b

- 6- **St. Mark's Gospel was the first Gospel to be written.** True/False

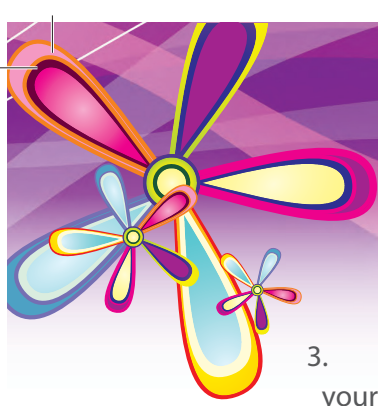
- 7- **What is the "key verse" in the Gospel of St. Mark?**

CHAPTER 1

1. **Who came to prepare the way for Jesus?**
 - a) An angel of the Lord
 - b) St. John the Baptist
 - c) St. Peter

2. **Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness for**
 - a) 40 days
 - b) 60 days
 - c) 10 days





3. **The Holy Trinity was manifested during Jesus' Baptism.** True/False. (Justify your answer)

4. **Jesus told His disciples He would make them**
 - a) Fishermen
 - b) Businessmen
 - c) Fishers of men

5. **What amazed the multitudes about Jesus?**
 - a) His physical appearance
 - b) His many miracles
 - c) His authority in teaching

CHAPTER 2

1. **When the friends of the paralytic couldn't reach Jesus they**
 - a) gave up and went home
 - b) took off part of the roof so they could lower him through the opening
 - c) waited for God to open a path through the crowd

2. **What did Jesus say first to the paralytic man?**
 - a) Arise, take your bed and go to your house
 - b) Go show yourself to the priests
 - c) Your sins are forgiven you

3. **The Pharisees were happy to see Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners.** True/False

4. **Name the tax collector whom Jesus called.**

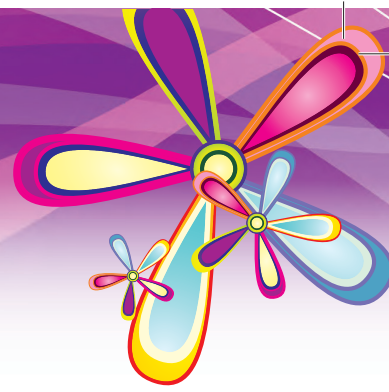
CHAPTER 3

1. **Jesus gave the Apostles the authority to**
 - a) heal sickness
 - b) cast out demons
 - c) a and b

2. **What was Jesus' answer, when the Scribes accused Him of casting demons by the rulers of demons?**
 - a) How can Satan casts out Satan?



- b) If a kingdom is divided against itself it cannot stand
- c) a & b



3. **What was Jesus' answer when He was asked "why His disciples do not fast"?**

CHAPTER 4

1. **In the parable of the Sower what does the seed represent?**
2. **Fill in the blanks:** These are the ones sown on _____ ground, those who hear the word _____ it and _____ some thirtyfold, some _____ and some a _____.
3. **Jesus used many parables in His teaching.** True/False
4. **What did the disciples tell Jesus when the storm arose on the sea?**
 - a) Pray for us
 - b) Tell the storm to calm down
 - c) Do you not care that we are perishing?

CHAPTER 5

1. **What happened to the swine when the demons entered them?**
 - a) They ran off a cliff and drowned in the sea
 - b) They died on the spot
 - c) They went in people's houses
2. **When the demon possessed man was healed, the people in the town asked Jesus to stay with them.** True/False
3. **The woman with the bleeding was healed when**
 - a) she believed in Jesus
 - b) she asked Jesus to heal her
 - c) she touched Jesus' clothes
4. **People told Jairus "Do not trouble the teacher any further" because**
 - a) his daughter had died
 - b) his daughter was feeling better
 - c) his daughter had left the house





CHAPTER 6


- 1. What is the sacrament mentioned in verse 13?**
 - a) Baptism
 - b) Confession
 - c) Unction of the sick
- 2. Herod thought that Jesus was John the Baptist.** (True/False)
- 3. Fill in the blanks:** Herodias' daughter asked Herod to give her the _____ of _____ the _____ on a _____.
- 4. How did Jesus go to the disciples in the fourth watch of the night?**
 - a) Walking on the water
 - b) In another boat
 - c) We don't know

CHAPTER 7

- 1. What Jewish tradition was explained in verses 1-4?**
- 2. According To Jesus' explanation what would defile a man?**
 - a) The unclean food
 - b) The evil thoughts
 - c) a & b
- 3. The woman who asked Jesus to heal her daughter was**
 - a) Jewish
 - b) Egyptian
 - c) Gentile
- 4. Jesus praised this woman for her**
 - a) Faith
 - b) Courage
 - c) Persistence
- 5. In his Gospel St. Mark uses "Aramaic words" give an example from this chapter.**

CHAPTER 8

- 1. The Pharisees came to Jesus asking Him to**
 - a) leave Jerusalem

- 
- b) perform a sign from heaven
 - c) to heal more sick people

2. **People said that Jesus was**

- a) John the Baptist
- b) Elijah
- c) one of the prophets
- d) all of the above

3. **Peter confessed that Jesus was the Christ.** True/False

4. **When Jesus announced His coming suffering _____ began to rebuke Him.**

- a) Thomas
- b) Peter
- c) John

CHAPTER 9

1. **What two Old Testament characters appeared on the mountain and talked with Jesus?**

2. **On the road the disciples disputed among themselves about which one of them**

- a) was the greatest
- b) would follow Jesus
- c) would heal more sick

3. **Jesus predicted His death and resurrection, but His disciples did not understand.**

True/False

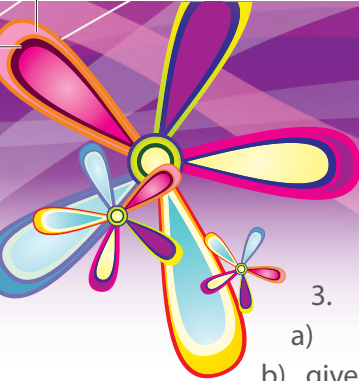
4. **Fill in the blanks:** Jesus said: "if anyone desires to be _____ he shall be last of all and _____ of all"

CHAPTER 10

1. **Fill in the blanks:** "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them _____ and _____ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his _____, and the two shall become one _____; so then they are no longer _____, but one _____"

2. **Why was the young man sad when Jesus told him that he needed to sell his possessions and give the money to the poor?**



- 
3. **The greatest in the kingdom of heaven is the one who**
 - a) attend the biggest church with the most beautiful building
 - b) give lots of money
 - c) take a high position of authority in the church
 - d) humbles himself and serves others

 4. **What was the name of the blind man whom Jesus healed?**
 - a) Bartimaeus
 - b) Thomas
 - c) Barnabas

 5. **The blind man kept calling Jesus**
 - a) Son of God
 - b) Son of David
 - c) Teacher

CHAPTER 11

1. **What does the word "Hosanna" mean?**

2. **Fill in the blanks:** "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a _____ of _____ for all nations'? But you have made it a '_____.'"

3. **When Jesus went to the fig tree He saw**
 - a) figs
 - b) leaves, but no figs
 - c) neither figs nor leaves


4. **In order for God to forgive us we have to**
 - a) Pray all the time
 - b) Forgive others
 - c) Fast

CHAPTER 12

1. **In the scripture "The stone rejected by the builders", the stone refers to**
 - a) Jesus
 - b) David
 - c) Moses

2. **What did the Pharisees ask Jesus to test Him?**



- 
- a) They asked about the resurrection of the dead
 - b) They asked if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar
 - c) They asked about the greatest and first commandment
3. **Fill in the blanks:** Jesus said that the greatest command is to _____ God, and the second greatest is to love your _____ as _____.
4. **Why did Jesus say that the poor widow has put in the treasury more than anyone?**

CHAPTER 13

1. **The Son of Man will come in the clouds with**
 - a) Power
 - b) Glory
 - c) Power and Glory
2. **Because we do not know the time of His coming Jesus wants us to**
 - a) watch and pray
 - b) go to the church everyday
 - c) save some money

CHAPTER 14

1. **The disciples praised the woman who poured perfume on Jesus' head.** True/False
2. **During the Lord's Supper, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of**
 - a) Confirmation
 - b) Eucharist
 - c) Priesthood
3. **Jesus said that Peter would**
 - a) deny Him 3 times
 - b) follow Him to the cross
 - c) die with Him
4. **When the rooster crowed for the second time, St. Peter**
 - a) Remembered Jesus' words
 - b) Wept
 - c) Went to talk to Jesus
 - d) a & b





e) All of the above

CHAPTER 15

1. **Who was released in Jesus' place?**

- a) Barnabas
- b) Barabbas
- c) Judas

2. **When Jesus was crucified, the sign over Him read:**

- a) The King of Kings
- b) The King of Peace
- c) The King of the Jews

3. **When Jesus died,**

- a) the veil of the temple was torn in two
- b) the temple was destroyed
- c) the temple was evacuated

4. **The tomb where Jesus was buried belonged to**

- a) Simon the Cyrenian
- b) Joseph of Arimathea
- c) John the Beloved

CHAPTER 16

1. **The women went to the tomb early on the first day of the week to**

- a) anoint Jesus' body
- b) take Jesus' body
- c) talk to the soldiers about Jesus

2. **The angel said Jesus was not there because**

- a) He resurrected
- b) He was taken by the soldiers
- c) He ascended

3. **Fill in the blanks:** "Go into all the world and preach _____ to every creature. He who _____ and is _____ will be saved; but he who does not believe will be _____"



God Revealed Himself To Us

There are 7 facts that make the Christian Faith distinguished.

1. **One God**
2. **The Trinity**
3. **Divinity of Christ**
4. **Christ Incarnation**
5. **The Redemption**
6. **Infallibility of the Holy Bible**
7. **The Holy Church**

God revealed Himself to mankind through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus said: "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. John 1:18

So, Jesus Christ Himself teaches us the truth about God the Father and about the mystery of the Trinity.

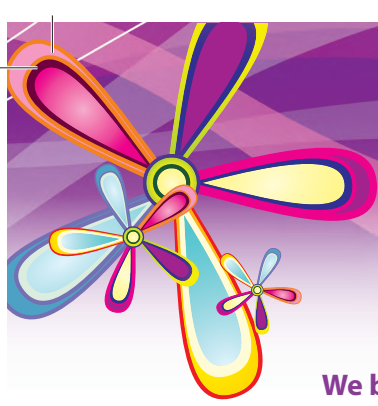
Understanding the "Trinity" is especially important, because it is central to our faith.

It is through the Trinity that we understand the incarnation.

It is through the Trinity that we understand how the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

St. Gregory said: "I rejoice in the Trinity"





The Mystery of the Trinity

We believe in One God with three distinct persons. How?

Examples: the human being has a spirit, a mind and a soul yet still one being; the sun is fire, light and heat and still one sun.

Soul + Spirit + Mind = One man

Sun + Light + Heat = One Sun

Christians believe in God the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is not three gods, but one God in three Hypostases.

In the undivided and indivisible Essence of God there are three distinct Persons.

The Holy Trinity is the central Mystery of the Christian Faith.

But does the Old Testament also contain the doctrine of the Trinity?

The Old Testament had a singular term for God, Eloah, which is used occasionally, but the vast majority of the time the plural form of God, Elohim, is used throughout the Old Testament.

Examples:

"In the beginning God (Elohim, a plural form) created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"Then God (Elohim, a plural form) said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." Genesis 1:26

"Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us." Genesis 3:22

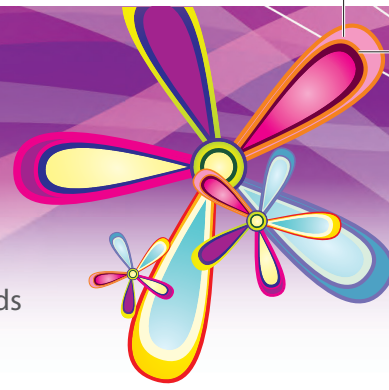
THREE IN ONE

Examples:

1- **the Sun.**

The Sun could be seen as the Father, the light that is begotten from the Sun can be seen as Christ and the heat which proceeds from it can be seen as the Holy Spirit. So you have them sharing in the exact same essence or substance, yet different in relation to one another and in function.



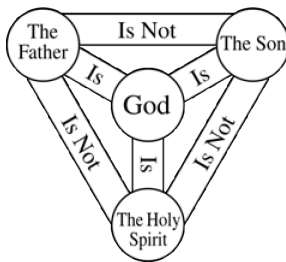


The Father begets the Son as the sun begets the light, and the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father as heat proceeds from the sun.

Therefore the one Sun shows itself as triune, sun, light and heat yet one substance or essence, as it is splendid in its unity and oneness. How much more the Creator of the sun is splendid and One in his unity and oneness in his triune being?

We therefore believe in One God in three divine persons.

2- The Equilateral Triangle



The equilateral triangle is a powerful picture of the coequal nature of the three persons. It stresses the distinctions, the “is not” doctrine. The three angles are equal yet, they are not the same but they share the same nature.

The Trinity in the New Testament

“I and My Father are one”. John 10:30

“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?” John 14:10

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. Matthew 28:19

The commandment is to Baptize in One Name, but Three Persons.

“For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.” 1John 5:7

Father + Son + Holy Spirit = One God





An Invitation To The Banquet

The Divine Liturgy

"The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" For many are called, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:2:14

Questions:

What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

Who is the King, and Who is His Son?

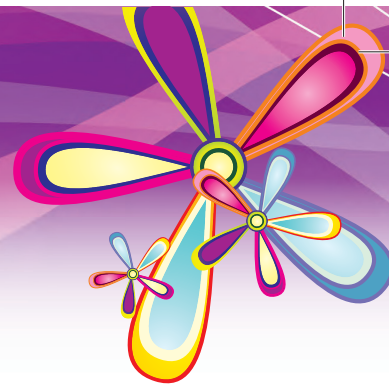
Who is the bride?

What do the oxen and fatted cattle represent?

Who are the people who rejected the invitation?

Who are the new invitees?





The Kingdom of Heaven is:

It is the heart of each person when we let Christ dwell in it. It is the Church the "House of God." It is heaven the "Throne of God."

The King is God the Father, and His Son is Jesus Christ (God the Son) Who was incarnated for our salvation.

The bride is every human soul, who loves God.

The oxen and fatted cattle that were killed represented the sacrifices that were offered in the Old Testament. They all point to the ultimate sacrifice our Lord Jesus Christ.

The people who rejected the invitation are the Jews, who refused Christ and did not believe in Him.

The new invitees are the gentiles (us), who believed in Him, and are invited to his Banquet (His body and His blood).

In order to attend His Banquet we have to have the wedding garment (be ready).

This banquet is offered to us daily, in the Divine Liturgy.

Station 1 (Preparation for the Banquet)

Starts the night before the liturgy and includes:

1. Evening Raising of Incense
2. The Midnight Psalmody (Tasbeha)

Station 2

1. Morning Raising of Incense
2. The Prayer of the Agpeya

Station 3 (the Offering)

The Bread (Korban)

This is the bread which will become the Body of Jesus Who is the LAMB of GOD

It must be:

1. Made of pure wheat. The grain of flour represents the Christians and the water that





unites them represents the Holy Spirit, so we become all one body.

2. Leavened: the yeast is the symbol of sin that our Lord Jesus carried on the cross on our behalf.
3. Not salted because our Lord Jesus said “you are the salt of the earth” Matthew 5:13.
4. Baked on the day of the liturgy and must be prepared by deacons.
5. Made while psalms are recited in a designated place called ‘Bethlehem’.

The number of bread in the basket should be an odd number because there will always be a unique Member in the offering, JESUS who is unique and not paired with any human.

The Wine

Must be made from grapes since Jesus used grapes in the Last Supper.

Station 4 (The Readings)

- 1- The Pauline epistle from the 14 letters of St. Paul
- 2- The Catholic epistle from the 7 letters of St. James, St. Peter, St. John and St. Jude
- 3- The Praxis – from the Acts of the Apostles
- 4- The Synexarium – the occasions or the saints of the day
- 5- The Psalm and The Gospel

Station 5 (The Creed)

Reciting the Creed here is the response to hearing the word of God during the Liturgy of the Catechumens and an introduction to the prayer of Reconciliation.

During reciting the Creed, the priest washes his hands to absolve himself from the guilt of those who will take Communion undeservedly (Matthew 27:24).

Station 6 (Reconciliation)

Reconciliation means to “make peace with”. Here it refers to our reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ as well as our reconciliation with one another before taking communion.

Station 7 (the Consecration & the invocation of the Holy Spirit)



“Consecration” is the transformation of the Bread and Wine into the Body and the Blood of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit who is in one essence with the Father and the Son.

The Epiclesis is a prayer for the Holy Spirit to descend upon the Bread and Wine and change them into the Body and the Blood of Christ. At this moment the deacon says, “Worship God in fear and trembling”

Station 8 (The Litanies)

The word “Litany” means petition.

Litany of Peace

Litany of the Fathers

Litany of the Priests and Deacons

Litany of Mercy

Litany of the Place (Safety of the world)

Litany of the Waters, Plants and Air of Heaven

Litany of the Offerings

Station 9 (The commemoration of the Saints)

In the Commemoration of the saints, we remember all the saints as the Lord Jesus commanded.

This commemoration reflects the unity of the Church between those who are on earth and the departed.

Station 10 (Fraction)

“Fraction” means breaking the Holy Body as a symbol of Christ’s suffering.

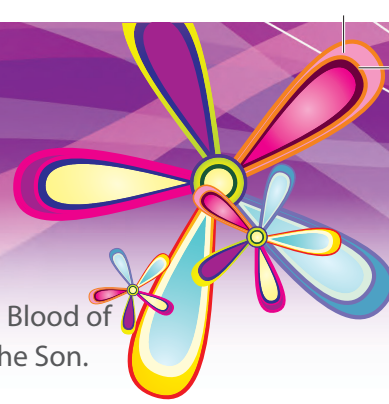
We thank God for His inexpressible gift, and ask Him to purify our hearts, souls and bodies and make us worthy to partake in the Holy Communion.

Station 11 (Prayer of Confession and Communion)

The Confession is a statement of faith, a declaration of our belief.

During communion, we praise the Lord as we are partaking in this Holy Sacrament.

The Liturgy is a journey through the life of Christ from His incarnation to His ascension.





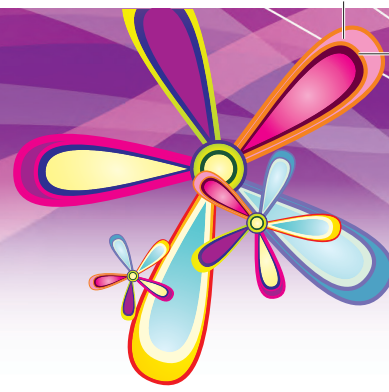
Israel Supreme Leader And Commander

Joshua

I.D. Card

1. Joshua the son of Nun
2. The successor of Moses
3. The author of the Book of Joshua
4. The name Joshua comes from the Hebrew meaning “salvation” or “the Lord saves”. The Greek form of Joshua is Jesus and also means salvation or Savior.
5. He is also called Hosea (Number 13:8), but Moses changed his name.
6. From the tribe of Ephraim
7. He was born in Egypt during the weary years of bondage
8. He was appointed by Moses to be the military leader during the first battle against the Amalakites after they came out of Egypt. (Exodus 17:3-8)
9. Joshua along with eleven others was chosen to search the Land of Canaan representing his tribe. At that time Moses changed his name from Hosea (God’s help) to Joshua (God’s salvation). Along with Caleb, they brought a faithful report about the Promised Land and trusted that God would fulfill His promise. Therefore, they were the only two from the Israelites who were born in Egypt to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:7-9).
10. Achievements:
 - a) He led the people to the Promised Land crossing the Jordan River.
 - b) He divided the lands among the tribes of Israel.
11. He died at the age of 120 years.

The Book of Joshua



Chapter 1

The New Leader's Commission

1. Joshua was faithful when he went to spy on the land along with Caleb. So the Lord commanded him to be a leader for the people after Moses' death. Why was Moses not allowed to enter Canaan? Number 20:8-12
2. The Lord is the leader of the people, but He appoints obedient servants to carry out His will. He commanded Joshua to divide the land between the tribes. According to God's promise they were to inherit the land from the wilderness in the south to Lebanon and Euphrates in the north. This was fully fulfilled during the reign of David and Solomon.
3. Joshua started to prepare the people for entering and possessing the land. The Lord encouraged him saying: "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them" Joshua 1:5-6
4. The Lord commanded Joshua to be courageous and to keep God's Law day and night.

Conclusion


When we are faithful to the Lord, He will not leave us but He will guide us from success to success. keep His word and follow His commandments.

Chapter 2

Rahab and the Spies

1. Joshua sends spies to examine Jericho; this walled city controlled the passage into central Canaan. The spies are discovered, but they are hidden by Rahab who helps them escape over the wall of the city. Therefore, she wins a promise that her family will be spared when the Israelites destroy Jericho.
2. Rahab believed that Jehovah was the true God and that His word was true. She proved her faith by her deeds.
3. Rahab was confident that God's people will inherit the land so she asked for the safety of her family. The spies gave the sign of the "Scarlet cord" on her house, only those





sheltered in her house will be saved.

Conclusion

1. The salvation is by Jesus Christ's blood (the scarlet cord) and the good deeds.
2. Rahab believed (faith) and she helped the spies (good deeds).
3. Nobody could be saved outside Rahab's house. No salvation outside the church, with her rituals and sacraments.
4. Rahab was not selfish but she thought about her family.

Chapter 3

Israel Crosses the Jordan, the Three Days Preparation

1. Joshua and the people of Israel prepared themselves to cross the Jordan River. They spent three days to be sanctified. Why?
 - a) Same as Jesus was in the tomb for 3 days. He opened the Paradise for the believers.
 - b) Crossing the Jordan is a symbol of Baptism: immersion in the water three times.
2. God demonstrated that He was with Joshua. Joshua had the priests carry the Ark of God and lead the people into the Jordan. When the feet of the priests touched the stream, the waters, that were at flood stage, stopped and the Israelites walked on dry land, not wet mud!

Conclusion

1. Baptism is through faith in the Holy Trinity.
2. The door of Paradise was opened after three days from the cross.
3. The Ark of covenant (representing the word of God) was among of the people of Israel leading them to victory.

Chapter 4

Joshua Chooses Twelve Memorial Stones

1. Joshua chose twelve men one from each tribe to bring up twelve stones from the Jordan. They took the stones and erected a Memorial in Gilgal to give the fathers the

opportunity to tell their children about the miraculous crossing of the river.

2. Twelve other stones were placed in the river bed, and would be visible when the water level dropped.
3. The presence of the Ark stopped the water of the river from flowing until all the people crossed the river. When the priests carrying the Ark crossed to the other side the waters of the Jordan returned to their normal flow. It was flood time.
4. They entered Canaan on the 10th day of the first month and it was the time to celebrate the Passover Lamb.

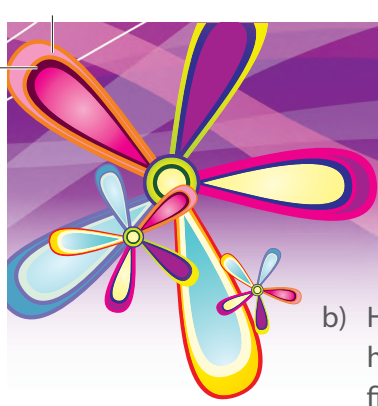
Conclusion

1. The twelve stones in Gilgal represent the icons in the church which show the faithfulness of the saints and martyrs to God.
2. The twelve stones in the river bed represent the struggling church on earth.
3. They entered the Promised Land during the Passover celebration. Likewise, we cannot enter the paradise without the redemption of our true Lamb.

Chapter 5

The Second Generation Circumcised

1. Gilgal lies in the valley between Jordan and Jericho. It became the base for the conquest operations. But first three important events took place:
 - a) The men of Israel were circumcised, a rite apparently neglected in the desert (Genesis 17)
 - b) The Passover feast was celebrated on the 14th day of the first month, the anniversary of the first Passover, held in Egypt (Exodus 12).
 - c) The manna which God had supplied as food in the wilderness journey ceased as Israel started to eat of the produce of Canaan.
2. Joshua needed to go through Jericho to go to Canaan. Jericho was a well fortified city. So, the Lord met with him in the form of a man with a sword in His hand and said to him that He was the Commander of the army of the Lord. This was not an angel but one of Jesus' appearances in the Old Testament. Why?
 - a) Joshua worshiped Him, angels do not accept worship (Revelation 8:22)



- b) He told Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy". The same thing was said to Moses when the Lord appeared to him in the fiery bush.

Conclusion

1. We must always be renewing our covenant with God by the circumcision (obedience to the rites of the Law) and separate from sin.
2. Only the chosen people (circumcised) are allowed to eat the Passover.

Chapter 6

Jericho Taken and Consecrated

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down (Hebrews 11:30), when the people marched around Jericho once a day for six days, and seven times on the 7th day. All, except those who had taken refuge in Rahab's house, were destroyed while all silver, gold and bronze were set aside for the Lord's treasury.

Conclusion


1. Jericho means the city of moon. It had a good fertile land. It was mentioned by our Lord in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 11). Also Jesus visited Zacchaeus' house in Jericho.
2. The city had strong walls symbolizing hardened hearts of the men who are far from God's love.
3. Similar to Satan's kingdom, for the city to fall, men had to fight with faith and prayers.
4. Rahab entered among God's chosen people by the way of the scarlet cord which symbolizes the blood of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 7

The First Defeat and its Cause

1. Israel was taught that victory was possible only where there were obedience and sincere consecration. When Joshua sent thousands of men up to take the small settlement of Ai, Israel was defeated and 36 men were killed. Why? Because of disobedience!



- 
2. God commended Joshua to gather all the people; Achan was identified from all the tribes. He had taken from Jericho a Babylonian robe with silver and gold. He hid them in his tent. As the whole family was involved, he and his family were condemned to death and all his possessions were burned.

Conclusion

1. The Songs of Songs (2:15) warns us about the victory over Jericho, the great city and the defeat by a small city like Ai.
2. The Lord told Joshua about the cause and not about the person, to give Achan a chance to repent (many chances were given by the many lots).
3. When we put away evil; the door of hope stands wide open for us. (Hosea 2:15)

Chapter 8

Ai Taken

1. Now that the evil was put away, the people were reassured of the victory.
2. Joshua divided the people into two teams, one team was hiding at the gate of Ai and the other team attacked the city. The attackers pretended to be retreating away from the city, so the people of Ai went out of the city to go after them. The other team came out of hiding, entered the city and set it on fire.
3. Joshua hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. As soon as the sun was down, he commanded that they cast his body at the entrance of the gate of the city, and pile up a heap of stones over it.
4. Joshua built an altar for the Lord and the people offered sacrifices. Then he divided the people into two groups, one group stood in front of Mount Gerizim and the other in front of Mount Ebal. Then he started to read Moses's Law for them.

Conclusion

1. Salvation and redemption are through the cross.
2. On the cross Satan was defeated and has no authority over us.





Chapter 9 &10

The Gibeonites Deception

1. For the second time Joshua fell in the same mistake. The people of Israel relied on their human wisdom without asking the Lord and accepted a deal with the deceiving Gibeonites.
2. The Gibeonites saw the miraculous hand of the Lord with His people. They were afraid and resorted to ruse. They went as a delegation to Joshua with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. They said to Joshua "We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us."
3. Joshua believed them and made a treaty of peace with them to let them live. The leaders of the assembly approved it by oath.
4. Because the Gibeonites entered in this treaty with Joshua when five kings of the Amorites rose against them to fight them Joshua interfered to save them.
5. Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies. "And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel." Joshua 10:14
6. Rahab believed and by her love (good deeds) she became one of God's people but the Gibeonites were saved by deceiving the Israelites, so they took a curse and became slaves in the midst of God's people.

Conclusion

Not asking God for counsel before making any decision will have consequences.

Chapter 20

The Cities of Refuge

1. Two and half tribes inherited the land east of the Jordan, i.e. before crossing the Jordan River. The rest of the tribes of Israel inherited Canaan (The Promised Land) west of the Jordan.
2. According to the Law, the punishment of murder was death. But if the murder was

unintentional God would give the killer a chance to be saved by escaping to the cities of refuge.

3. In the city of refuge, the fugitive would go to the elders of the city to make sure that the murder was by mistake (unintentional). So they would keep him in the city and no one can harm him as the Lord commanded.
4. The fugitive would stay in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest who is serving at that time. Then he will be set free and can go back to his own city.
5. The Lord assigned six cities of refuge three to the east of the Jordan (representing the Old Testament) and three to the west of the Jordan (representing the New Testament).
6. The ways to the cities of refuge were made straight, wide and with clear signs "REFUGE"

Conclusion

1. The cities of refuge are a symbol of our Lord Jesus Christ; in Him everybody can find refuge.
2. The ways to these cities represent the Holy Bible leading us to Jesus Christ.
3. The death of the high priest would set the murderer free as Jesus Christ' death sets us free.

Joshua is an example of Christ who wants us to worship God in love

1. Joshua gathered all the people and elders and told them how God was with His people starting from Abraham to their entry to the Promised Land.
2. He announced to his people that the Lord would grant them victory whenever they followed His commandments. He also warned them that if they left God, God would leave them in the hands of their enemies. He gave them the freedom to choose.
3. He gave himself and his household as an example (Joshua 24:15)
4. The people promised Joshua that they would worship the Lord. Joshua set a stone as a witness and memorial for their promise. He died at the age of 120 years after a life full of victory and success and full of love to the Lord and love for his people.



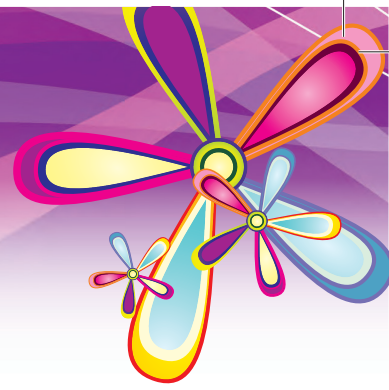


Joshua vs. Jesus

Jesus	Joshua
His name means Savior.	His name "Yehoshua", means Jehovah is salvation.
He leads His children to the Heavenly Jerusalem.	He led his people into the Promised Land.
Was born in the world to be like us in everything.	He was born in the land of Egypt (land of slavery) like his brothers.
He died on the cross to grant us the Kingdom of Heaven.	His book ended by his death after he entered with his people to the Promised Land.
He leads us to victory over sin and death.	He led his people to victory.
He became man and took the form of a slave.	He was named the servant of the Lord. Joshua 24:29
He sent His disciples two by two to every city to save the believers. Luke 10:1	He sent two spies and saved the faithful lady, Rahab from death.
He performed many miracles.	The Lord ascertained his mission by making the sun stand still during the war in Gibeon.



Hour By Hour



The Agpeya Prayers

Prayer is our way of communicating with God. It is talking to God and getting closer to Him.

There are different types of prayers: Communal Prayers (i.e. Divine Liturgy), Personal Prayers, Arrow Prayers (Jesus' Prayer "My Lord Jesus Christ, help me").

The Agpeya, is one of the prayer books that the church had put together to help us in our daily prayers.

What is "Agpeya"?

The word, "Agpeya" from the Coptic word "Agp" which means "hour," refers to the book called "The Prayers of the Hours." It contains different prayers to be said throughout the day (day and night). These prayers are seven in number since David the prophet said: "Seven times a day, do I praise you of your righteous judgment" (Psalm 119:164).

Every one of the Hours follows the same basic outline:

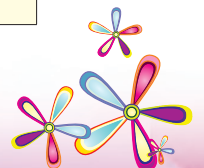
1. Introduction, which includes the Lord's Prayer, the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Psalm 50
2. Various Psalms
3. A reading from the Holy Gospel
4. Short Litanies
5. «Lord Have Mercy» is then chanted 41 times
6. Prayers and Absolutions
7. Conclusion of every hour





The seven prayers of the Agpeya are:

Prayer	Corresponding events in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ	How it connects to our life.
Prime (1 st hour)	This hour is prayed early in the morning, and commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord	We thank God that the night has passed in peace, and we ask Him to keep us through the day & deliver us from evil.
Terce (3 rd hour)	In this hour of the day, the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles. At this hour also, our Lord Jesus Christ was condemned.	We ask God to send His Holy Spirit upon us, to purify us from all sins.
Sext (6 th hour)	In this hour, Our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified.	We ask God to help us to crucify our passions and desires and to live with Him.
None (9 th hour)	This hour commemorates the death of our Lord in the flesh on the cross and the testimony of the thief who was at His right-hand side.	We ask God to turn our minds away from worldly cares and carnal lusts and to accept us unto Him as He accepted the right thief.
Vespers (11 th hour)	Instituted to commemorate the descent of the body of the Lord Jesus Christ from the Cross, wrapping it in linen, and anointing it with sweet spices.	We thank God because He has granted us to pass the day in peace. And we ask Him to grant us peace during the coming night.
Compline (12 th hour)	This hour commemorates laying the body of Christ down in the grave.	We thank God for all what He did for us throughout the day. We ask Him to forgive us all our sins which we committed in the day. We also ask Him to keep us in the night without sin.
Midnight	To commemorates the second coming of the Lord. It consists of three watches, corresponding to the three stages of Christ's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane.	We ask God to help us live a life of repentance, and to be ready for His second coming.





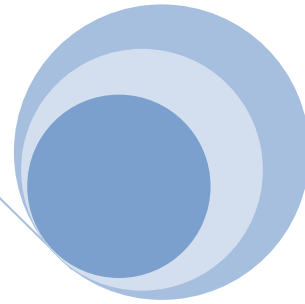
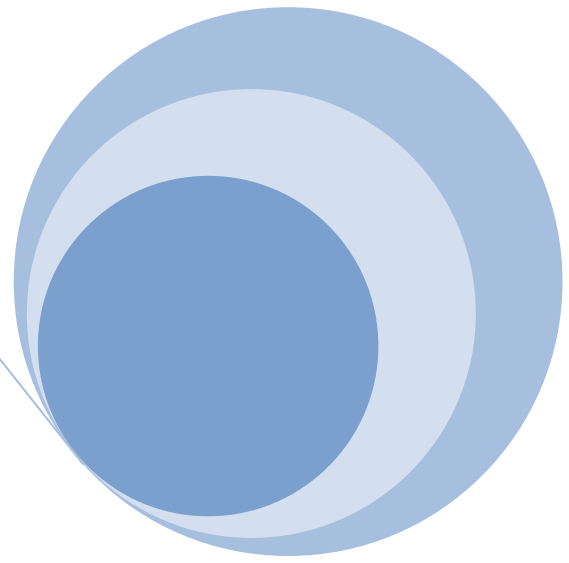
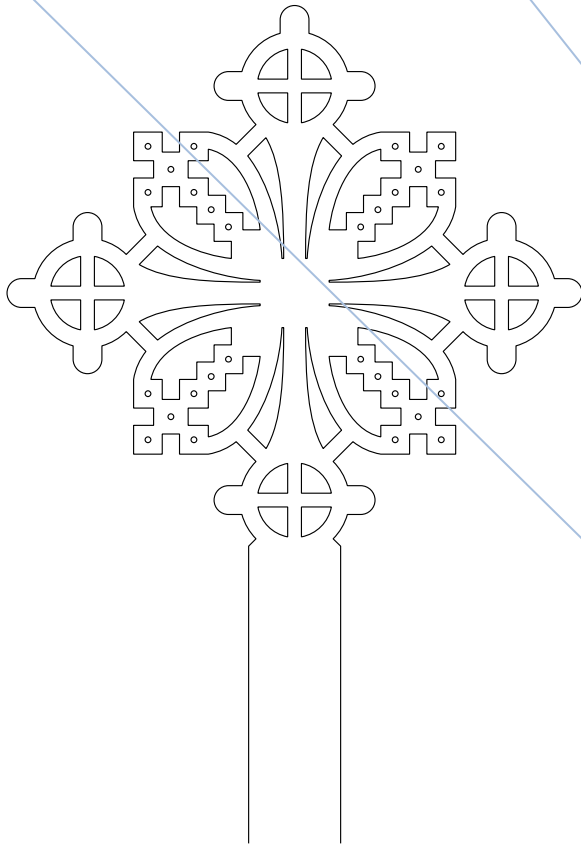
Why the Agpeya?

1. The hours in the Agpeya prayers are chronologically laid out; each containing a theme corresponding to events in the life of Jesus Christ. The Agpeya prayers aim at reminding us with these events so that we may relive them every day.
2. The Agpeya teaches us how to pray, as its prayers cover all aspects of prayers that we might forget (praises, thanksgiving, repentance, prayers for others...etc.)
3. Praying with the Agpeya helps us stay longer in the presence of God

Why do we use Psalms?

1. There are no other words better than the words of God to speak to God with.
2. The Psalms were written by David the Prophet under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Lord bore witness to David when He said. "David, speaking by the Spirit" Matthew 22:43
3. Many of our private prayers are private requests, but the psalms open the domain of contemplation before us and teach us the prayers of praise and thanksgiving.
4. St. Paul instructed us saying: "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" Ephesians 5:19

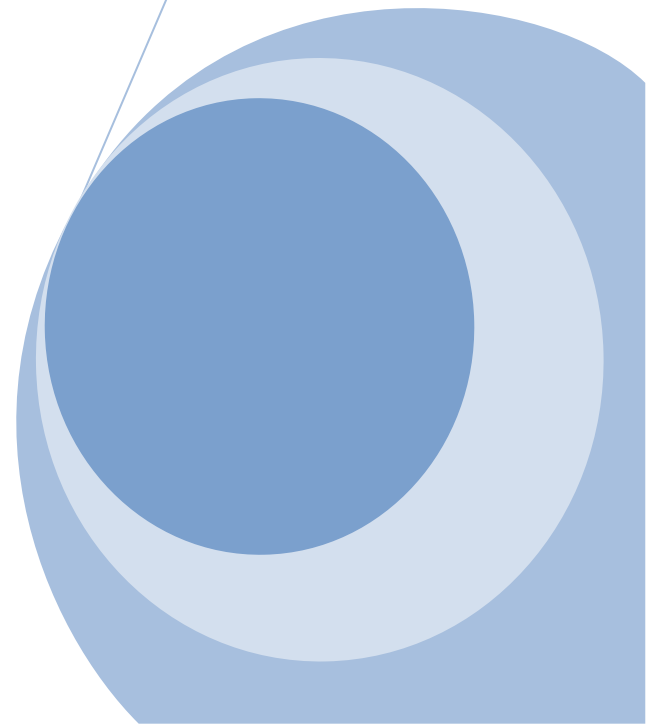
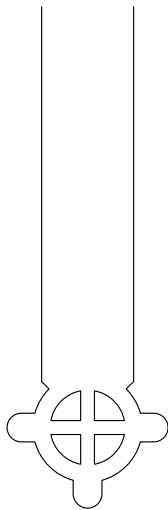


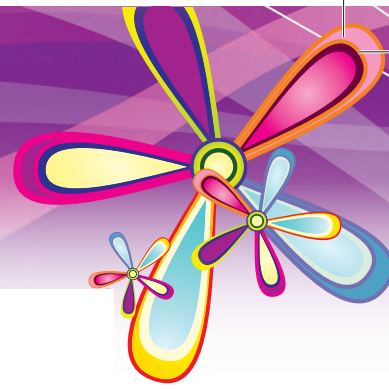


Part II: Memorization

The 13th Annual C.O.O.L. Convention – Students who have completed Grades 7 and 8 – Summer 2011

**St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church
Hamilton, Ontario - Canada**





Memorization

III- The prayer of the Third hour

The Third Hour commemorated three significant events: Christ's trial by Pilate, His ascension to heaven, and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples on the day of the Pentecost.

PSALM 19

May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you; May He send you help from the sanctuary, And strengthen you out of Zion; May He remember all your offerings, And accept your burnt sacrifice. May He grant you according to your heart's desire, and fulfill all your purpose. We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions. Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright. Save, LORD! May the King answer us when we call. Alleluia

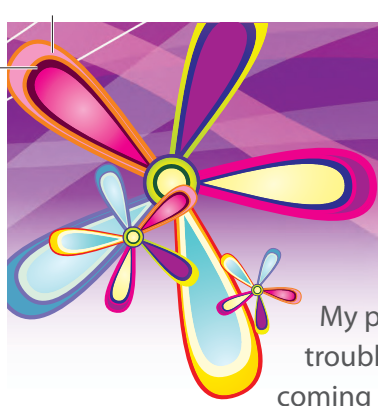
PSALM 22

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever. Alleluia

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN (CH. 14:26-31 & CH. 15:1-4)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you,





My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.

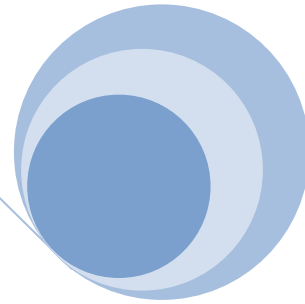
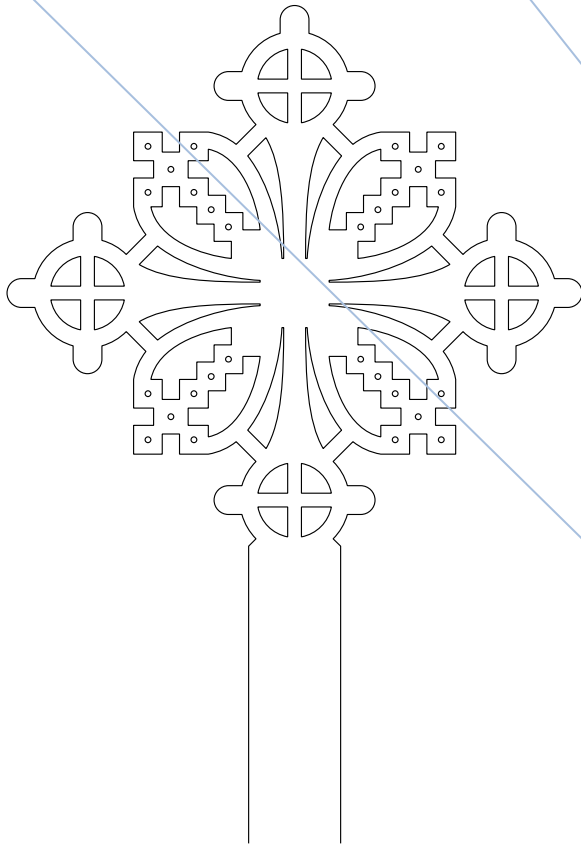
"And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here." I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you.

Glory to God forever. Amen.

The litanies

1. Your Holy Spirit, O Lord Whom You sent forth upon Your holy disciples and honored apostles in the third hour, do not take away from us, O Good One, but renew Him within us. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence. And do not take Your Holy Spirit away from me.
2. O Lord who sent down Your Holy Spirit upon Your holy disciples and Your honored apostles in the third hour, do not take Him away from us, O Good One, but we ask You to renew Him within us, O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Word; a steadfast and life giving spirit, a spirit of prophecy and chastity, a spirit of holiness, justice and authority, O the Almighty One, for You are the light of our souls. O Who shines upon every man that comes into the world, have mercy on me.
3. O Theotokos, you are the true vine who bore the Cluster of Life, we ask you, O full of grace, with the apostles, for the salvation of our souls. Blessed is the Lord our God. Blessed is the Lord day by day. He prepares our way, for He is God of our salvation.
4. O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who is present in all places and fills all, the treasury of good things and the Life-Giver, graciously come, and dwell in us and purify us from all defilement, O Good One, and save our souls.
5. Just as You were with Your disciples, O Savior, and gave them peace, graciously come also and be with us, and grant us Your peace, and save us, and deliver our souls.
6. Whenever we stand in Your holy sanctuary, we are considered standing in heaven. O Theotokos, you are the gate of heaven, open for us the gate of mercy.

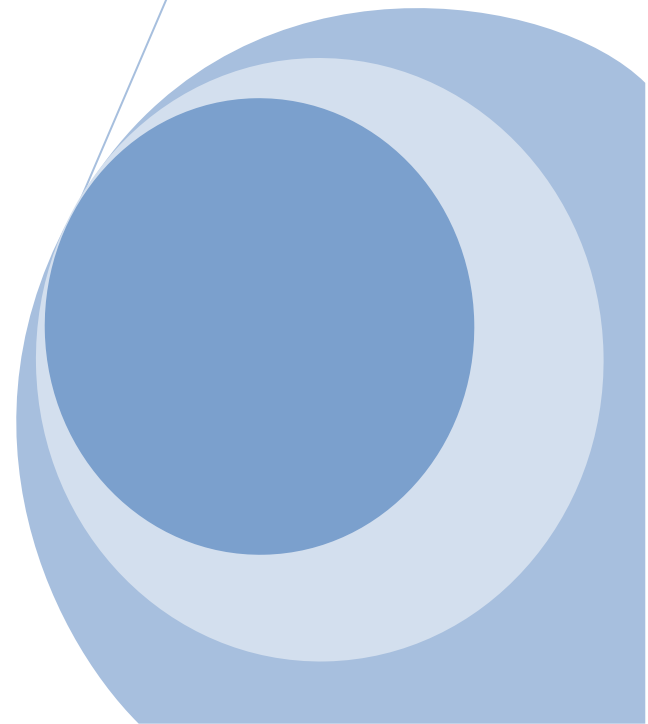
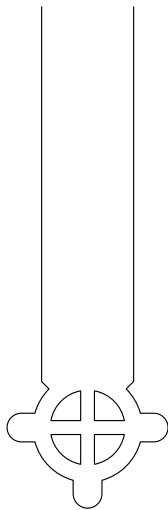




Part III: Coptic

The 13th Annual C.O.O.L. Convention – Students who
have completed Grades 7 and 8 – Summer 2011

St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church
Hamilton, Ontario - Canada



Coptic



Objective:

For the Coptic Competition each participant should:

- 1- Know how to read and write all the letters in the Coptic alphabet, with some words memorization.
- 2- Memorize the Sign of the cross and the Lord's prayer in Coptic.
- 3- Memorize some words and their meaning.
- 4- The evaluation of this competition will be carried out in a written test format, and offered in Coptic letters only, with a partial help of a "word bank".

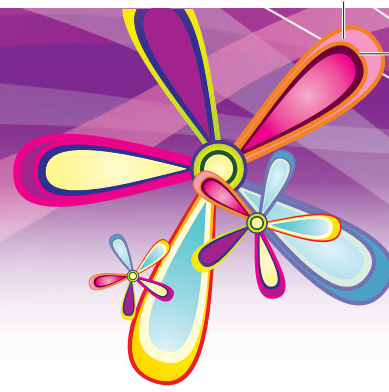
1. The Coptic Alphabet

Letter	Name	Pronunciation	Example	Meaning
Α α	Alpha	a	Α ω	What
Β β	Vita	b	Β α λ	Eye
		v	Ϯ ε β τ	Fish
Ϯ Ϯ	Gamma	g	Ϯ η	Earth
		n	Ⲁ ⲥ ⲥ ⲉ ⲗ ⲟ ϥ	Angel
		gh	Ϯ α ρ	Because
Δ λ	Delta	d	Δ α ρ τ ι Δ	David
		th	Ⲁ ⲟ ⲗ ⲟ ⲗ ⲟ ⲥ ι ⲁ	Glorification
Ε ε	Eey	e	Ⲉ ⲙ ι	To know
Ϯ Ϯ	So-ou	Number 6	Ϯ ⲏ ⲁ ⲗ ⲟ Ϯ	6 kids
Ζ ζ	Zeeta	z	Ζ ε η ζ ε η	Lizard
Η η	Eeta	ee	Η ι	House
Θ θ	Theta	th	Θ ω η	Where



Letter	Name	Pronunciation	Example	Meaning
		t	Θεμα	Distance
Ιι	Yota	i	Ίγτ	Nail
Κκ	Kappa	k	Κατ	Understand
Λλ	Lola	l	Λαc	Tongue
Μμ	Mey	m	Μεο	In front of
Νν	Ney	n	Νογτ	God
Ξξ	Exi	x	Ξομη	Ruler
Οο	O	o	Χομ	Power
Ππ	Pe	p	Cοπετ	Squid
Ρρ	Ro	r	Ραν	Name
Σc	Seema	s	Σωματικωc	Of the flesh
Ττ	Tav	t	Ταχρο	To strengthen
Υυ	Epsilon	v	Μαυ	Mother
		oo	Ογρο	King
		i	Μγρον	Myron Oil
Φφ	Phi	f	Φανoc	Lantern
Χχ	Key	k	Χλομ	Crown
		sh	Χιωη	Ice
		kh	Χαριc	Grace
Ψψ	Epsi	ps	Ψγχη	Soul
Ωω	Omega	oa	Ψογ	Glory
Ϙϙ	Shai	sh	Ψογγογ	Pride
Ϝϝ	Fai	f	Λογλεγ	To decay
Ϟϟ	Khai	kh	Ϟεν	In
Ϡϡ	Hori	h	Ϡωc	Praise
Ϙϙ	Jenja	j	Ϙιχ	Hand
		g	Ϙαγ	Cold





Letter	Name	Pronunciation	Example	Meaning
ϸϹ	Cheema	ch	ϸϹϹ	Raise
Ͽϻ	Ti	ti	Ͽϻⲁϥⲟ	To be kind

2. The sign of the Cross:

Ⲭⲉⲛ Ͽⲣⲁⲛ ⲙ̀Ͽⲓⲱⲧ In the Name of the Father

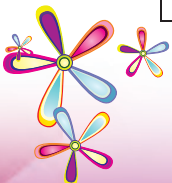
ⲛⲉⲙ Ͽⲱⲛⲓ and the Son

ⲛⲉⲙ Ⲡⲓⲡⲛⲉⲩⲙⲁ ⲉ̀ⲑⲟⲩⲁⲃ and the Holy Spirit

Ⲑⲩⲛⲟⲩϻ ⲛⲟⲩⲱⲧ. Ⲁⲙⲛⲛ. One God. Amen.

3. Some Words

Coptic	Pronunciation	English
Ⲡⲉⲛⲓⲱⲧ	pen-yout	Our father
Ⲡⲓⲩⲛⲟⲩⲱ	nifi-ou-we	The heavens
Ⲡⲉⲕⲣⲁⲛ	Pekran	Your name
Ͽⲩⲩⲉ	Effe	The heaven
ⲛⲉⲙ	Nem	And
Ⲡⲓⲕⲁⲃⲓ	Pikahi	The earth
ⲠⲓϿⲓⲣⲓⲥⲧⲟⲥ	Pikhristos	Christ
Ⲡⲉⲛⲃⲟⲓⲥ	Penchois	Our Lord
Ͽⲓⲙⲉⲧⲟⲩⲣⲟ	timet-ouro	The kingdom
Ⲡⲉⲛⲱⲓⲕ	pen-oik	Our bread
Ͽⲩⲩⲟⲩⲱ	emfo-ou	Today
ⲓⲛⲥⲟⲩⲥ	Eesous	Jesus





4. The Lord's Prayer

Coptic	Pronunciation	English
<p>Ⲭⲉ Ⲡⲉⲛⲓⲱⲧ ⲉⲧⲃⲉⲛ ⲛⲓⲫⲏⲟⲩ: ⲙⲁⲣⲉⲩⲧⲟⲩⲃⲟ ⲛ̀Ⲭⲉ Ⲡⲉⲕⲣⲁⲛ:</p>	<p>Je peniot et-khen nifi-owi: mareftouvo enje pekran:.</p>	<p>Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,</p>
<p>ⲙⲁⲣⲉⲥⲓ ⲛ̀Ⲭⲉ ⲧⲉⲕⲙⲉⲧⲟⲩⲣⲟ: Ⲡⲉⲧⲉⲛⲁⲕ ⲙⲁⲣⲉⲩⲱⲱⲡⲓ ⲙ̀ⲫⲣⲏⲧⲓ ⲃⲉⲛ ⲓⲫⲉ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲃⲓⲅⲉⲛ Ⲡⲓⲕⲁⲃⲓ:</p>	<p>mares-ee enje tekmet-ouro: petehnak marefshopi emefreety khen etfe nem hijen pikahi:</p>	<p>thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.</p>
<p>Ⲡⲉⲛⲱⲓⲕ ⲛ̀ⲧⲉ ⲣⲁⲥⲧⲓ ⲙⲏⲓⲕ ⲛⲁⲛ ⲙ̀ⲫⲟⲟⲩ:</p>	<p>penoik ente rastee meef nan emfo-oo:</p>	<p>Give us this day our daily bread.</p>
<p>ⲟⲩⲟⲩ ⲕⲁ ⲛⲉⲉⲧⲉⲣⲟⲛ ⲛⲁⲛ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ: ⲙ̀ⲫⲣⲏⲧⲓ ⲃⲟⲛ ⲛ̀ⲧⲉⲛⲕⲟ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ⲛ̀ⲛⲏⲏⲉⲧⲉ ⲟⲩⲟⲛ ⲛ̀ⲧⲁⲛ ⲉⲣⲱⲟⲩ:</p>	<p>ouoh ka nee-eteron nan evol: emefreety hon entenko evol enni-ete ouon entan ero-oo:</p>	<p>And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.</p>
<p>ⲓⲟⲩⲟⲩ ⲙ̀ⲡⲉⲣⲉⲛⲧⲉⲛ ⲉⲃⲟⲩⲛ ⲉⲡⲓⲣⲁⲥⲙⲟⲥ: ⲁⲗⲗⲁ ⲛⲁⲃⲱⲉⲛ ⲉⲃⲟⲗ ⲃⲁ Ⲡⲓⲡⲉⲧⲃⲱⲟⲩ:</p>	<p>ouoh emperenten ekhoun empirasmos: alla nahmen evol ha pi-pet-ho-oo:</p>	<p>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.</p>
<p>ⲃⲉⲛ Ⲡⲓ ⲕⲣⲓⲥⲟⲥ Ⲡⲉⲛ ⲟⲩⲟⲩ. Ⲭⲉ ⲑⲟⲕ ⲧⲉ ⲧⲉⲉⲧⲉⲧⲟⲩⲣⲟ ⲛⲉⲙ ⲧⲉⲉⲑⲟⲙ ⲛⲉⲙ Ⲡⲓⲱⲟⲩ ⲱⲗ ⲉⲛⲉⲃ ⲁⲙⲏⲛ.</p>	<p>khen pikhristos eesos penchois. Je thok te tee- metouro nem tee-gom nem pi-o-ou sha eneh. Amen.</p>	<p>In Christ Jesus our Lord, for thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory forever. Amen.</p>



