



Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus' Birth

- (Micah 5:1-2): "But you, Bethlehem Ephrata, though you are small among the clans (or rulers) of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." You can read its fulfillment in: (Matthew 2: 1 & Luke 2: 4 – 7)

- (Isaiah 7:14): "Therefore the Lord himself will give you (plural, meaning you all) a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (literally, God with us)." You can read its fulfillment in (Matthew 1: 18 & Luke 1: 26 – 35)

- (Numbers 24:17): "I see him, but not now; I behold him but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth." You can read its fulfillment in: (Matthew 1: 12 & Luke 3: 34) - (Jeremiah 31:15): "This is what the Lord says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." This describes King Herod's killing of all male babies from birth to two years of age in the attempt to keep Jesus from surviving to become a King mentioned in (Matthew 2:16-18)



Celebrating New Year's Eve

- Our church celebrates New Year's Eve on Saturday, December 31, from 10:30 PM - 6:30 AM.

- The program contains Vespers, Kiahk praises, Santa Clause distributing gifts, and a Divine Liturgy from 5:00 – 6:30 AM.

- It is much better to spend this occasion, not in a worldly manner, but in a spiritual atmosphere giving thanks to God.

The Orthodox doctrine of Christ incarnate

- We believe that Jesus is: True God and true man, One person in two natures, without separation and without confusion: a single person, but endowed with two wills and two energies.

- From the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed: "He was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man."

- The Orthodox Church teaches that the Incarnation is the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham. It is the completion of the Law of Moses and the fulfillment of the prophets. -- To the Church, Christ incarnate is the final Prophet, Teacher, and King. He is the Great High Priest of Salvation.

- The final definitions of the Incarnation and the nature of Jesus were made by the early Church at the Council of Ephesus, This council declared that Jesus was both fully God, begotten from the Father; and fully man, taking His flesh and human nature from the Theotokos St. Mary. These two natures, human and divine, were hypostatically united into the one personhood of Jesus Christ.

- The Incarnation itself is a major reason why the Church encourages the use of icons. Icons safeguard the doctrine of the Incarnation because the central point of the Christian faith is that "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" and that "We have beheld His glory" (John 1:14).



Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness
 To an opponent, tolerance
 To a friend, your heart
 To a customer, service
 To all, charity
 To every child, a good example
 To yourself, respect.



Archangels Michael & Gabriel Coptic Orthodox Church
985 N. Palm Ave.
Fresno, CA 93728

Under the auspices of H. H. Pope Shenouda III
 (559) 441-1698
fresnocopticchurch.org



Your Prayers & Donations are very much appreciated

December 2011 Newsletter

Fr. Mena Fam



Christmas quotes

- When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs? [G.K. Chesterton](#)
- He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree. [Roy L. Smith](#)
- Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts. [Janice Maeditere](#)
- I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. [Charles Dickens](#)
- I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month. [Harlan Miller](#)

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Mini Coptic Synaxarium

- Hatour 25/ December 5: Martyrdom of St. Philopater Mercurius.
- Hatour 29/ December 9: Martyrdom of St. Peter, the seal of the martyrs.
- Kiahk 4/ December 14: Martyrdom of St. Andrew the Apostle.
- Kiahk 5/ December 15: Departure of Nahum, the prophet.
- Kiahk 10/ December 20: Departure of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (Mora)
- Kiahk 20/ December 30: Departure of the upright Haggai the prophet.

Always Remember By H. H. Pope Shenouda III



- Remember your weakness, then you will be more cautious and you will not submit to the thoughts of pride and false glory which may attack you.
- Remember the loving kindness of the Lord bestowed on you, and you will always lead a life of thanksgiving.
- Remember people's love and their good past with you.
- Remember death, so all worldly temptations will disappear.
- Remember that you are standing before God and He is looking at you, then you cannot sin because you see Him. - Remember God's promises, and you will be comforted in all your troubles.
- Remember the Blood of Jesus which was shed for your sake and you will definitely know the value of your life.
- Remember always that you are a stranger on the earth and that you will return to your heavenly home: then you will not put all your hopes in this world and its comforts. - Remember that the narrow gate leads to the kingdom of heaven. If you see the wide gate open before you, escape and keep away from it, as all those who went in by it, they all perished.
- Remember your eternity and work for it at all times.
- Remember that you are a child of God, and ought to have His image. You walk as fits the Children of God, for they are apparent.
- Remember that you are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God in you. Be always a holy temple.
- Remember all that I said to you on this page and if you have already forgotten, please read it over again.



The Blessed Month of Kiahk

- The month of Kiahk is called the "Marian month" because of its association with St. Mary, the Theotokos. This month has a special place in our Coptic Orthodox Church, for it is a month of preparation for the glorious Feast of the Nativity. For this reason, there was an immense concern for having special hymns in the church during this month, and so the tune of the hymns chanted during this month is called the "Kiahk tune."
- Kiahk Praises: are called seven and four, for it consists of four Hoos (The Coptic word meaning song or praise; also referred to as an Ode) and seven Theotokias (means glorification chants for the Theotokos St. Mary) with seven explanations.

Kiahk's Vigils

- The Church starts the "Kiahk" vigils from Saturday, December 11, 2011 @ 6:30 PM
- The Church praises the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ and honors St. Mary who gave birth to the Savior

† It is necessary most of all for one who is fasting to curb anger, to accustom himself to meekness and condescension, to have a contrite heart, to repulse impure thoughts and desires, to examine his conscience, to put his mind to the test and to verify what good has been done by us in this or any other week, and which deficiency we have corrected in ourselves in the present week. This is true fasting. [St. Basil the Great](#)