



**The Commemoration of the Honored Archangel Michael** (12 Hatour/Nov. 22)

- He is the head of the hosts of heaven, who stands at all times before the great throne of God, interceding on behalf of the human race.

- Joshua, the son of Nun, saw him in great glory (Joshua 5:13-15, 6:2)

- The Archangel Michael was with all the saints and martyrs. He strengthened them and enabled them to endure patiently until they finished their strife.

- Festivals of commemoration are held and alms offered in his name on the twelfth day of each Coptic month.

- An example of one of his wonders: A God-fearing man whose name was Dorotheus and his wife Theopista, held a festival of commemoration for the honored angel Michael on the twelfth day of each month. It happened that this righteous family fell on hard times and had nothing to celebrate with for the commemoration of the honored Michael. They took their clothes to sell so that they might have a feast. Michael the Archangel appeared to Dorotheus and commanded him not to sell his clothes, but to go to a sheep-master and to take from him a sheep worth one-third of a dinar. He was also to go to a fisherman and to take from him a fish worth one-third of a dinar but Dorotheus was not to slit open the fish until he came back to him. Finally, he was to go to a flour merchant and to take from him as much flour as he needed. Dorotheus did as the Angel commanded him. He invited the people, as was his custom, to the feast honoring the Archangel Michael. When he went into his storeroom looking for wine for the offering, he found that all the containers had been filled with wine and many other good things. He marveled and was astonished. After they had finished the celebration and all the people had departed, the Archangel appeared to Dorotheus as before and commanded him to cut open the belly of the fish. He found 300 dinars of gold and three coins each is a third of a dinar. He told him these three coins were for the sheep, the fish and the flour, and the 300 dinars were for him and his children. May His intercession be for us.

**The Assembly of the Ecumenical Council at Nicaea (9 Hatour/Nov. 19)**

- The First Council of Nicaea was a council of Christian bishops convened in Nicaea in Bithynia (present-day Iznik in Turkey) by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in A.D. 325.

- The reason for their assembly was to judge Arius - who was a priest in Alexandria- He blasphemed against the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ by saying that he was not equal in essence to God, His Father, and there was a time when the Son did not exist.

- They had Arius brought before them and asked him to state his faith. He blasphemed saying, "The Father was when the Son was not." When they explained to him his error and he did not change his opinion, they excommunicated him and all those who shared his opinion and belief. Then they wrote the Canon of the Christian faith which is known as the "Nicene Creed". It states: "Truly we believe in one God, God the Father ... We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ ... Whose kingdom shall have no end."

- Later on, when the council of one hundred and fifty assembled in the city of Constantinople to judge Macedonius, the enemy of the Holy Spirit, they formulated the remainder of that creed saying: "Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord ... We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the coming age. Amen."

- After the fathers of the council of Nicaea had excommunicated Arius and established the Creed, they issued other decisions as follows:

1- The council decided that the baptism performed by heretics was worthless in contrast to what the Bishop of Rome and his followers had thought.

2- They also established the Resurrection feast day. It was decided that it would be on the Sunday that followed the full moon, on which was the Passover of the Jews. Thus, they would not celebrate before the Jews or with them. They authorized the Popes of Alexandria, because of their knowledge and accuracy in calculating the dates, to notify all the churches about the day on which they would celebrate the feast.



**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](http://fresnocopticchurch.org)

**40<sup>th</sup> Enthronement Anniversary of H. H. Pope Shenouda III**

The Church congratulates  
 H. H. Pope Shenouda III  
 For the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his enthronement on the  
 See of Saint Mark.  
 We ask our Lord to keep his life many years and  
 peaceful times.



**November 2011 Newsletter**

Fr. Mena Fam



**DONT EVER GIVE UP!**

If you can't fly - then run.

If you can't run - then walk.

If you can't walk - then crawl.

But whatever you do...

You **MUST** keep moving forward.

### **The Holy Nativity Fast (16 Hatour / Nov. 26)**

God willing we will start the holy Nativity Fast from (November 26 - January 6).

- The Nativity Fast is the 40 days preceding the Nativity of Christ (Christmas) on 29 Koiak (January 7, which also falls on 28 Koiak in leap years).

- The 40 days correspond to the 40 days that the Prophet Moses fasted on the mountain, before receiving the Ten Commandments from God, which were at that time considered the word of God to his people. Thus, with Christ being the Word of God, the Christians fast those 40 days in preparation of receiving the Word of God in flesh at the Feast of the Nativity.

- An additional 3 days were added at the beginning of the 40 days of Advent during the 10th century AD to commemorate the 3 days that the Copts fasted before God awarded them the miracle of moving the Mokattam Mountain, which lies within a suburb of Cairo on the hands of Saint Simon the Tanner during the ruling of the Muslim Fatimid Caliph Al Muiz Ledin Illah.

- We implore our Lord, who completed our salvation by coming down to redeem us from the bondage of sin, to help us to do what is pleasing in His sight during this holy fast and through all the days of our lives.

### **The Martyrdom of Saint Mina (15 Hatour/ Nov. 25)**



- His father, Eudoxius, was the governor of Africa, he was merciful and God-fearing.

- His mother Euphemia had no children. One day she went to church at Attribe on the feast of St. Mary. She stood before the icon of St. Mary, entreating her to intercede for her before her beloved Son, in order that He would give her a son. A voice came from the icon saying, "Amen."

- The Lord gave them this saint and they called him Mina, according to the voice that his mother heard. When he was eleven years old, his father departed. Then his mother departed three years later. Because of everyone's love towards him and his father, they placed him in his father's position.

- When Diocletian had converted from Christianity and issued his orders to worship idols, St. Mina left his position and went to the desert, where he stayed many days worshipping God with all his heart.

- One day he saw the heavens open and the martyrs crowned with beautiful crowns. He heard a voice saying, "He who toils for the Name of the Lord Christ shall receive these crowns." He returned to the city over which he was Governor and confessed the Name of the Lord Christ, the Governor ordered him to be tortured. When the Governor failed to turn him away from his Christian faith, he sent him to his brother so that he might influence him but he failed also. Finally, he ordered his head to be cut off with the sword, his body to be cast in the fire and his ashes to be scattered in the wind. The body remained in the fire for three days and three nights, but it was not harmed.

- St. Mina's monastery in Marriot -Alexandria- still has the holy relics of St. Mina.

May his intercession of St. Mina be with us.



### **The Martyrdom of Saint Luke the Evangelist (22 Baba/Nov. 2)**

- He was one of the 70 disciples mentioned in the tenth chapter of his gospel. He accompanied the Apostles Peter and Paul and wrote their account. After the martyrdom of these two Apostles, he went through Rome preaching. Those who worshipped idols and the Jews in Rome agreed among themselves and went to Nero the Emperor accusing St. Luke of attracting many men to his teaching with his sorcery. Nero commanded that St. Luke be brought before him. When St. Luke came before Nero the Emperor, the Emperor asked him, "How long will you lead the people astray?" St. Luke replied, "I am not a magician, but I am an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God." The Emperor commanded his men to cut off his right hand saying, "Cut off this hand which wrote the books." The saint replied to him, "We do not fear death, nor the departure from this world, and to realize the power of my Master." He took up his severed hand and made it reattach to its proper place, then he separated it. Those who were present marveled and the head of the Emperor's cabinet and his wife believed as well as many others and it was said that they numbered 276. The Emperor ordered that their heads be cut off together with that of the Apostle St. Luke.

- This saint wrote the Gospel bearing his name as well as "Acts of the Apostles".

- The tradition that Luke painted icons of St. Mary and Jesus the baby, this fact is particularly common in the Eastern Orthodoxy. The tradition also has support from the Saint Thomas Christians of India who claim to still have one of the Theotokos icons that St. Luke painted and which St. Thomas brought to India. May His blessings be upon us.