



ST. MARY & ST. VERENA

COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH



THE MISSION
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Yorba Linda, Ca. 92886

www.saintverena.org

Diocese of Los Angeles,
Southern California &
Hawaii

THE MISSION

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published by

**St. Mary & St. Verena
Coptic Orthodox Church**
5401 Fairmont Blvd.
Yorba Linda, Ca 92886

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distributed through your
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If you know anyone who
would like to receive this
newsletter, please e-mail
us the mailing address.

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Saturdays:

5:30 - 6:30 PM	Beginners & Advanced Hymns Classes
5:30 - 6:30 PM	Servants Meeting
5:30 - 7:30 PM	Deacons School
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Church School: PreK-HS
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Adult Bible Study Meetings
7:30 - 8:00 PM	Vespers
8:00 - 10:00 PM	Midnight Praise
8:00 - Open	Confessions

Sunday:

8:00 - 11:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
11:15 - 11:45 AM	Children's Hymns Class
11:30 - 12:30 PM	Agape/Fellowship Hour
11:30 - 12:30 PM	College & Grads Meeting
11:30 - 12:30 PM	Young Professionals & Young Families Meeting
11:30 - 12:30 PM	Pre-Servants Meeting

Wednesday:

8:30 - 10:30 AM	Divine Liturgy
10:30 - 12:30 PM	Seniors' Meeting
7:30 - 8:30 PM	Adult Deacons' Class

Friday:

8:00 - 10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Jr. High & High School Youth Meetings
7:30 - 9:00PM	Youth Fellowship

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Schedule changes
are posted at
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*Please consider donating via
PayPal on our church website*





Opposing Sin and Declaring War Against It

by Archdeacon Habib Guirgus

Sin extended its roots, and controlled the soul, and yet grace overshadows the soul, and its dawn is still lighting in the heart to prevent the flow of sin, but left in us some branches. We have to struggle and be studious in opposing it and to prevent its growth.

We have to put in mind that sin has power or authority over the children of God, who have His Spirit and His grace.

If sin inside you is pulling and pushing you to do evil, do not think for a second that you are left alone, having no power to defend you, for the Spirit of God, which is within you, breaks its thorn and defeats its authority. Grace will always be your companion to overcome these lusts, so when the sun rises, darkness will dissipate, and when the day comes, night is defeated. Same when the rays of the Holy Spirit show, and overlay the heart of man, all evil lusts flee away from before the face of God, and cast out all devils, and all lusts which sin has begotten, for grace is light and illumination, while sin is darkness and night. when the Holy Spirit enters, Satan flees away, and when the grace illuminates, sin becomes like smoke.

Do not lose hope for the presence of sin seeds in you. Remember that Rahab, the harlot, lived among the evil ones, yet her faith and hope saved her. Sin cannot and will not overcome those who have faith in the Lord. Beware of the saying; "These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them? You shall not be afraid of them ... You shall not be terrified of them; for the Lord your God, the great and awesome God, is among you. And the Lord your God will drive out those nations

before you, little by little ... your Lord God will deliver them over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed" (Deuteronomy 7:17; 21-23).

If you are oppressed by temptation, do not give in lest it conquers you.

Do not fulfill its will, for you did, it shall tear you apart without mercy, but rather cast it out at once in steadfastness and courage, then it will be defeated before you speedily.

You will remain strong and courage, as long as you in charge of yourself, so defend and protect yourself diligently to decrease the desires towards evil, and present before yourself; goodness and virtue.

If you felt a motive inside you toward sin, do not let this feeling be completed in satisfaction, but rather cast out sin immediately and do not accept it. If you accepted the proposal of sin, that can be the key you handed over to the devil to open up the fortress of your heart. As the apostle Paul said in regards to the original sin, which was inherited in our human nature, "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Romans 7:23). This feeling will not be sinful unless you accepted or agreed to fulfill it in action. So, do not allow the deficiencies of your nature to bring forth evil things, and bud into guilt, but rather follow the path of virtue and perfection, not paying attention to the revolt of the body and its noise.

Do not listen to the desires of the flesh, and be inclined to its attractions, but step over these for they are fantasies only, and the Holy Spirit, which is dwelling in you, will give you life and grant you growth in grace.

Sin will never rest, and the old serpent will continue visiting you to deceive and try to attack you by its fatal venom, do not accept its deception and seduction, and never make a treaty with it. Do not allow it to be your companion on the way. Stay away from it, and despise every offer from it, and do not give it a chance to think about it.

Turn your face away from it, and feel sorry for it. Do not leave thoughts and desires under its control, but announce and proclaim war against it, and take heed to God to conquer it under your feet speedily.

Fear sin as you fear the venom, flee away from guilt and sin as you flee from a serpent, and if you fell, stand up and run fast. Never let sin have a room in your heart, and do not burden yourself with a compounded sin, lest it becomes hard to be saved.

Do not sin saying, 'the mercy of God is great', for this a great deception from Satan, belittling the mercy of God, putting in mind the justice of God is near.

By sinning, you deserve a just punishment, if you hurt the divine mercy, who shall shelter you? If the clouds and fog are heavy in the sky, you shall not see the stars, and the light of the sun and the moon will be prevented from your vision. Such is the case when the heart is covered with the clouds of sin, then it becomes dark and no lights will be seen. Smoke hurts the eyes and prevent the light, likewise; sin blinds the vision, and prevent the divine illumination from the heart. Do not allow sin to dwell in your heart, and do not allow Satan and his soldiers to have a pathway into you, lest they find hiding places in you, turning your heart into caves of thieves and criminals. Cast away the evil thoughts and do not allow it to visit you often, lest it makes your desires express it!

+ + +

A Message to Sinners Only

by Fr. Matthew the Poor

SINNERS WERE AND STILL ARE Christ's special and extremely important mission. This mission brought Him down from Heaven, out of His Father's embrace. For sinful mankind, Christ descended from the heavens and came into the world ...

It was a joyful day when Christ, on His way to Jericho, met Zacchaeus. The chief tax collector had climbed up into a sycamore tree in an effort

to see Jesus closely. What Christ did then was astonishing. When He saw him, the Lord said, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must Stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5.)

Levi, like Zacchaeus, was a sinner. He was a tax collector, a position of fraud, theft, and of mixing with Gentiles. Christ entered his house, and Levi made Him a great feast. Naturally, many tax collectors and other sinners were invited. Jesus sat, ate and drank with these sinners. His friendship to them infuriated the Scribes and Pharisees. They confronted His disciples about their Teacher eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners. Then came the reply, which this Story compels us to seek: "And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31,32.)

Christ came for the sake of sinners. He descended from heaven, incarnate in human form, suffered, was nailed on the cross and died for the sake of sinners alone. The pain He suffered and the scorn he endured were extremely severe, all for the sake of sinners. St. Peter's insight into this fact is considered the fundamental core on which Christian theology was established:

He Himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Peter 2:24.)

In summary, this is how it happened. Jesus was judged in the court of the Jews, charged with many sins. He did not answer, but remained silent. He was then judged by a Roman court, also accused of many heavy sins. When Pontius Pilate asked Him to answer these charges, He did not answer or defend Himself, which dismayed the Roman Judge. But Christ the secret to Himself, the secret that He accepted upon Himself all the sins for which He was blamed. The judgment for all these sins was crucifixion on a cross. He accepted crucifixion, bearing our sins in His tom body on the cross. Hence, the judgment of the cross was justified and Christ accepted it.

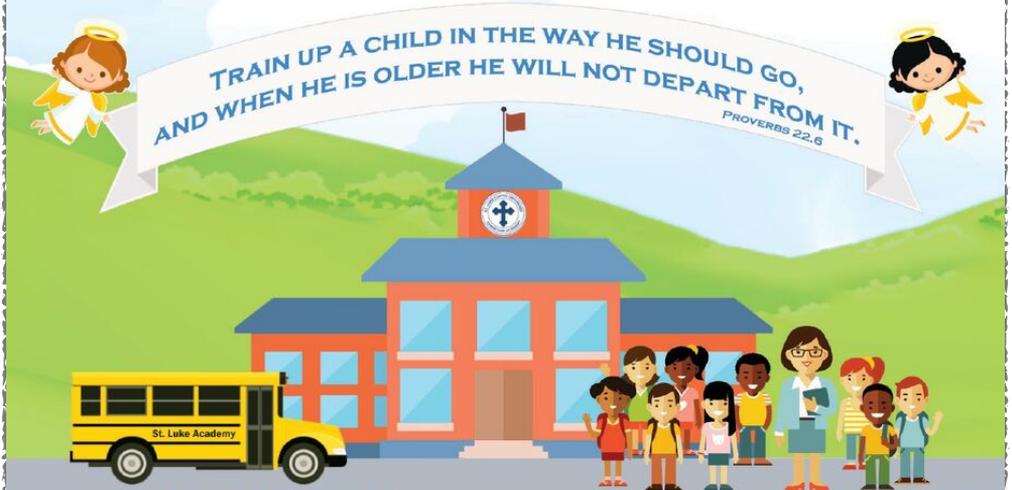
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ST. LUKE ACADEMY

5401 FAIRMONT BLVD, YORBA LINDA • 714-312-6641 • SAINTLUKEACADEMY.ORG

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO,
AND WHEN HE IS OLDER HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.
PROVERBS 22:6



NOW ENROLLING! Daycare, Preschool & Kindergarten

It is with great zeal and joy that we announce the opening of ST. LUKE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ACADEMY!

By the grace of God, we have this great opportunity to provide children with a strong education within a Christ-centered environment, where they may also receive Orthodox Christian teachings. Planting seeds in young children in a Christian environment will yield future leaders and amazing professionals; "for the Lord gives wisdom, and from His face come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6).

We look to you for your fervent prayer and endowing support of this endeavor that is the first of its kind.

MISSION STATEMENT

- STEAM-Focused education in a safe caring Christian environment.
- Provide a comprehensive curriculum enriched by core Christian principles
- Promote academic success and foster spiritual growth

For more information about the academy and to offer your support, please visit:
WWW.SAINTLUKEACADEMY.ORG

GOALS OF ST. LUKE ACADEMY ARE TO HELP CHILDREN:

- Establish a strong Christian foundation
- Develop a positive self-image
- Engage the five senses
- Employ STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math)-focused approach for growing intellectually utilizing hands-on activities.
- Learn to express themselves effectively
- Become independent and creative thinkers
- Learn healthy socialization skills
- Build a positive and healthy relationship between the academy and the home

YOUTH BACKPACKING TRIP JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK



**St. Mary & St. Verena Church Congratulates
Fr. Andrew Hanna
on the 4th Anniversary of his Ordination**

*May God bless his service and
keep his priesthood for many years!*



Calendar of Events: November 2018

Thu, Nov. 1 - *Feast of the Saint Luke*

Sun, Nov. 4 - Daylight Savings Time Ends (*turn clocks back one hour*)

Fri-Mon, Nov. 9-12 - Annual Young Adults Winter Retreat

Sun, Nov. 18 - *Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea*

Sun, Nov. 18 - Annual Young Adults Dessert Baking Challenge

Tue, Nov. 20 - *Feast of Saint Anna, the Mother of the Theotokos Saint Mary*

Wed, Nov. 21 - *Feast of Archangel Michael*

Sat, Nov. 24 - *Feast of Saint Mina*

Sun, Nov. 25 - **Nativity Fast Begins**

Mon, Nov. 26 - *Feast of Saint John Chrysostom*

**latest calendar updates are posted at
www.saintverena.org**

St. Mary & St. Verena Church

offers her condolences to the families of the reposed:

Mrs. Gigi Elmasry

mother of Mr. Fareed Elmasry, husband of Mrs. Vicky Elmasry

Mr. Sabry Attallah

father of Mrs. Christine Youssef, wife of Mr. Peter Youssef

*May the Lord repose their souls
and comfort the families through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

Women's Convent Trip

St. Mary & St. Demiana Convent, Georgia





**Congratulations to the beautiful new couple on your marriage
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel & Ustena Lopez**



**Congratulations to the beautiful new couple on your marriage
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Monica Mongone**

الغش والخداع

ما أكثر أنواع الغش والخداع. وعلى الإنسان الحكيم أن يحترس منها جميعاً. وقد يُخدع بها البسطاء. وللأسف حتى العقلاء أحياناً يندفعون إن بالغوا في ثققتهم بالآخرين، ولم يفحصوا، ولم يدققوا كما ينبغي. وبخاصة لأن كثيراً من الذين يخدعون الغير أذكاء، غير أنهم يستخدمون ذكاءهم في الخطيئة أو الشر.

وسنحاول هنا أن نتحدث عن بعض أنواع الغش والخداع:

١- الغش في تقديم المعلومات:

وذلك بأن يقدم الشخص مفهوماً مخالفاً للحقيقة: بأن يعرض أنصاف الحقائق، أو أجزاء من الحقائق، لأن ما يخفيه سيظهر عكس ما يقول. أو يقدم أسباباً ثانوية أو تمرضية بدلاً من الأسباب الأساسية. أو يذكر بيانات كاذبة لتصديقها اعتماداً على الجهل بحقيقة الموقف. أو يستخدم وسائل تكنولوجية حديثة في فبركة الأخبار أو فبركة الصور، وما أكثرها في هذه الأيام. أو أنه يخدع غير الدارسين بذكر معلومات يدعى نسبتها إلى مصادر لا يكون في مقدورهم الإطلاع عليها والتأكد منها. أو ينشر أخباراً بعنوانين مثيرة، بينما من يدقق في قراءة المحتوى لا يجده مثبت ذلك.

وما أكثر الطرق في الخداع بالمعلومات الخاطئة أو المبالغ فيها إلى حد بعيد، ولكنها تترك تأثيرها في من لا يتقن الفحص والعمل على تقصي الحقائق، أو من لا يجد وقتاً لذلك

٢- الجاسوسية هي لون آخر من الخداع:

وذلك على مستوى الدول وليس مجرد الأفكار. ويعمل في هذا المجال أشخاص مدربون تدريباً دقيقاً، ولهم قدرة على التخفي، والظهور بغير حقيقتهم، والادعاء بأنهم مواطنون مخلصون. ويعرفون كيف يندسّون في الأوساط التي يريدون كشفها للعدو،

بحيث لا يلاحظهم أحد... وغالباً تمضي عليهم مدة طويلة دون أن تظهر حقيقتهم. وبالنسبة إلى البعض ربما لا تظهر حقيقتهم على الإطلاق إلا بعد رحيلهم أو فوات الفرصة. وهم أيضاً مزودون بأجهزة تساعد على أداء مهمتهم، سواء في التصنُّت أو التصوير أو طريقة إرسال المعلومات...

٣- الغش عن طريق التزوير:

هناك أشخاص لهم دراية عجيبة في تزوير الإماءات، أو تزوير الأختام، أو تزوير الوثائق الهامة بوجه عام... وربما يستخدمون التزوير في حسابات البنوك، أو في الشهادات والبطاقات. أو قد يسرقون بطاقة شخص ويستخدمونها لشخص آخر. أو يقومون بتزوير شهادات يقدمونها إلى المحاكم لكسب قضية معينة. أو قد يكون التزوير لكسب المال، أو للانتقام من شخص معين، أو الإيقاع به، وما إلى ذلك...

٤- التزوير في العملية المالية، وفي المعاملات المالية:

كأن يقوموا بتزوير ورقة مالية من فئة الجنيه، أو من فئة الدولار. ولا يستطيع كشف ذلك إلا الخبراء المتخصصون أو من تعاملوا مع ذلك. ولكن عامة الشعب قد لا يستطيعون أن يفرقوا بين العملتين المزيفة والسليمة. ومن جهة التزوير في المعاملات المالية: من يحاول أن يقدم تقريراً مزوراً عن ذمته المالية، أو عن موقفه من الضرائب المطلوبة منه، أو موقفه من الجمارك... لكي يقلت من مطالبته الدولة له...

٥- الغش في التجارة، وفي البيع والشراء:

مثل الغش في المكييل والموازين والمقاييس، أو الغش في نوع البضاعة، أو عرض بضاعة فاسدة كأنها بضاعة سليمة، أو الغش في الثمن، أو تقديم بضاعة يقولون إنها (مضروبة). أو شيء على أنه جديد بينما يكون قد سبق استعماله. أو الغش في بيع عقار يكون ملكاً لآخر، والشاري لا يدري، أو يكون مرهوناً أو عليه ديون لم تدفع.

ولعل من أخطر أنواع الغش، الغش في الأدوية وبخاصة التي تتوقف عليها حياة المريض، أو يتوقف عليها علاجه...

٦- الغش في الزواج:

كأن يتزوج شخص امرأة على أنها بكر، وهي ليست كذلك، أو قد فُضَّ غشاء بكارتها وعولج ذلك شكلياً بطريقة الخداع. وهذا النوع من الغش يمكن أن يُحكَم فيه قضائياً ببطان الزواج.

أو قد يقدم طالب الزواج شهادة (عدم موانع) تكون مزورة، أو يكون مرتبطاً بزيجات أخرى ويخفيها... أو مريض بمرض خطير ومعدي ويخفيه، أو مصاب بعجز جنسي كامل ويخفيه...

وهناك أنواع خداع أخرى قد لا تتكشف إلا بعد الزواج.

هذا كله غير خداع آخر يحدث داخل نطاق الزيجة، ربما تكون من نتائجه ما يُسمى بالخيانة الزوجية...

٧- الغش في المودة وفي الإخلاص:

ليست كل مودة يظهرها الإنسان لغيره تكون مودة خالصة نقية. فقد تكون أحياناً مظهرية وتكشفها الأحداث فيما بعد، أو لا تتكشف مختفية وراء ألوان من الرياء أو النفاق أو الخداع. وفي كل ذلك لا يكون الشخص مخلصاً لمن يتظاهر بمحبته أو بالولاء له. ويظهر هذا أيضاً في تملق بعض الموظفين لرؤسائهم وللمسؤولين عنهم في العمل أو في الهيئات التي ينضمون إليها.

ومن أمثلة المودة الزائفة، ما يظهره شاب نحو فتاة من الحب، أو من رغبته في الزواج بها، حتى تطمئن إليه وتصدمه ثم يتخلى عنها أخيراً بعد فترة من الخداع والكلام المعسول. ويكون ما أظهره من مودة أو حُب، إلا لوناً من اللهو أو الشهرة وليس غير..! ولعل أخطر نوع من المودة الزائفة، الذي يكون في حقيقته عدواً، وفي خداع يبدو كأنه صديق. وعنه قال الشاعر:

ويالربِّ خداع من الناس تلاقيه
يعيبُ السمِّ في الأفعى وكل السمِّ في فيه



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