

Mahragan El Keraza 2022



English Edition

Grades 3-4



“ Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

2 Corinthians 13:11



live in peace

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.



H.H. Pope Tawadros II

Pope of Alexandria &
Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark



H.G. Bishop David

Bishop of the Diocese of New York
and New England





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The Floating City

“Live in Peace” 2Corinthians 13:11

Welcome friends. I am the captain of the Floating City. I am here to tell you about our adventure to reach the Mountain Island with my friends: **Patrick**, and his sister, **Joel**, and **Maxwell**, whom we met on the way. We will also tell you about our great grandfather the great captain of the sea. On our trip to Mountain Island, we learned lessons, and we faced challenges. But at the end we enjoyed a wonderful surprise.

The theme of this year’s Mahragan journey is, *“Live In Peace”*
(2 Corinthians 13:11.)

1 – Elisha and the Lad.

We will learn that the meaning of the true peace. That we feel the presence of God with us at all times and showing love to everyone around us.

My Peace is a Divine Gift

2- Our life in Heaven

We learn that God fulfilled His promise through His incarnation, redemption, resurrection, and His ascension to Heaven to prepare a place for us. He promised to return and take us to live in eternal peace with Him.

“My Peace is From My Lord My Redeemer.”





3- The Divine Liturgy

We learn that our Coptic Orthodox Church in all the prayers teaches us how to enjoy peace. One of the most beautiful prayers in the church which is full of peace is the Divine Liturgy.

“My Peace is in my Wealthy Church”

4- Saint Peter and Walking on the Water

We learn that trusting in the presence of God with us, helps us face any fear so that we may have everlasting peace.

“I Keep My Peace Through Everything”

5- Pope Peter the Seal of the Martyrs

We learn how we care for the peace of others and make peace with everyone so that we may live in peace.

“I am at Peace with Everyone.”





My Peace is a Divine Gift

The Captain's Diary: 9/7/2500 A.D.

On this day many years ago, the glaciers began to melt and the sea water levels were high. The dry land began to disappear. My Great Grandfather, the Great Captain, predicted that the land will disappear underwater. He prepared our Floating City so that, we his great grand children, may survive the loss of dry land. Our Great Grandfather traveled to Mountain Island in order to prepare a place for us in the future.

All his predictions came true, we lost dry land and our city is a Floating City now, but we are facing a challenge. We are running out of the fuel that's helping to move the city. We need to get to Mountain Island again so we can settle and live there. We started to send two ships daily to try to locate the island, but they've been returning without any luck!

Patrick (rushing in): Captain, help! The ship crew caught a stranger with a small boat circling our city.

Captain: This is the first time a stranger comes into our city. What do you think we should do with him?

Joel: He may be a spy! We should interrogate him to know why he was circling around our city.





Patrick: It seems like we are not the only people left on Earth. If the others make it to the Mountain Island first, we won't be able to survive. We must get there first.

Captain: This is not the way we can live in peace. Even if we win by force, that won't be true peace. I'll tell you a story so you can tell the difference between true peace and false peace.





Elisha, the Lad and the True Meaning of Peace

(2 Kings 6:8-23)

After the death of King Solomon the kingdom split into two:

- Northern Kingdom (Kingdom of Israel) and its capital was Samaria.
- Southern Kingdom (Kingdom of Judah) and its capital was Jerusalem.
- The kings of Israel were wicked and were always in wars with neighboring nations and one of them was against the kingdom of Aram.



Patrick: Why they were fighting? Why couldn't they live in peace together?

Captain: These people did not know the meaning of true peace; even the people of Israel. They thought peace can be achieved by force. They thought that peace happens when nations make other nations submit to their rules.





Let's continue the story. The king of Aram insisted on defeating the king of Israel. So, he always made secret plans to attack him.

Patrick: It sounds like he was a smart king. Maybe he was able to bring peace to his people by defeating the others.



Captain: Unfortunately, he thought that he would be able to do so, but in the midst of Israel lived a great prophet named Elisha. (Prophet from the Northern Kingdom.)

The King of Aram consulted with his servants to make a secret plan, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." So, Elisha sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which Elisha had told him. Thus, he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

Therefore, the heart of the king of Aram was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"





And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak” in secret for his Lord reveals it to him.

So, the king said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him.”



Joel: This king might hurt Elisha because he is telling the king of Israel about his plans.

Captain: Let me tell you God can open eyes and close other eyes. Elisha lived all his life with the Lord and he was fulfilling God’s commandment. He was sure that the Lord is with him so he always lived in peace. But the servants of the King of Aram said, “Surely Elisha is in Dothan.”

Therefore, the king sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. And when the servant of Elisha arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And the servant said to Elisha, “My master! What shall we do?”

Elisha answered,





Memory Verse

“Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

(2 Kings 6:16)

And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. Elisha taught his servant a lesson about how we should live in true peace no matter what the circumstances are.



We should feel the presence of God with us all the time.

Patrick: Oh! ok! so, this is the opening of the eyes of the servants. What about “God also closes eyes” that you’ve mentioned?

Closing the Eyes of the Army:

So, when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.





Later, Elisha said to army, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria. For their war was with the king, not with Elisha himself. So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!

Patrick: That's wonderful. Good Job Elisha. Now the king of Israel can destroy them.

Captain: Patrick not again! Fighting and destroying is not the right way to true peace. Even the king of Israel was thinking like you, but Elisha had another plan.

"Now when the king of Israel saw the army, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

But Elisha answered, "You shall not kill them.





Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master." Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So, the two kingdoms lived in peace many years after that without any wars. Elisha was a peace maker.

Elisha taught the king of Aram and the king of Israel a lesson about how to have true peace between them by offering love .

Patrick: Now I get it. There is a huge difference between true peace and false peace.





My Peace is From My Lord My Redeemer

The group went to meet the intruder. He was introduced to the Captain as Maxwell. He was offered a meal, and warm tea.

Maxwell: Thank you for your love and kindness. I understand you are looking for something!

Patrick: Yes, we are looking for Mountain Island so we can settle and live there. We need to find it before our Floating City runs out of fuel.

Maxwell: Mountain Island? Are you sure this place exists?

Captain: Of course! Our Great Grandfather the Great Captain promised and left us maps and instructions that prove the existence of the island. We know that we are near it.

Maxwell: unfortunately, most of the people on our island lost hope in finding any islands around us. But, how are you all reassured and confident that the Mountain Island exists?

Captain: because we trust in the Promises of our Great Grandfather the Great Captain. He established our city and told us everything about it in details, as well as about everything that will happen in the future. We see that all his words came true.





He also said that he will prepare a place for us, and gave us signs to follow, so we can go there when the earth disappears. That's why we are preparing to build our city, and we are teaching our children so they can become experts for our eternal life.

Maxwell: What do you mean "Our eternal life?"

Captain: Our life in Heaven!

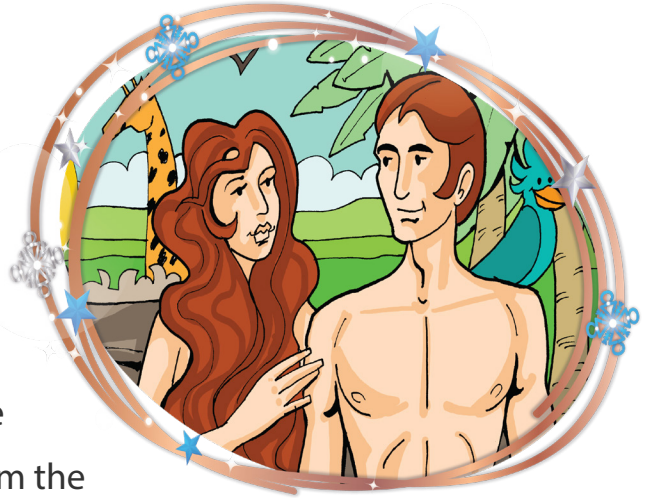




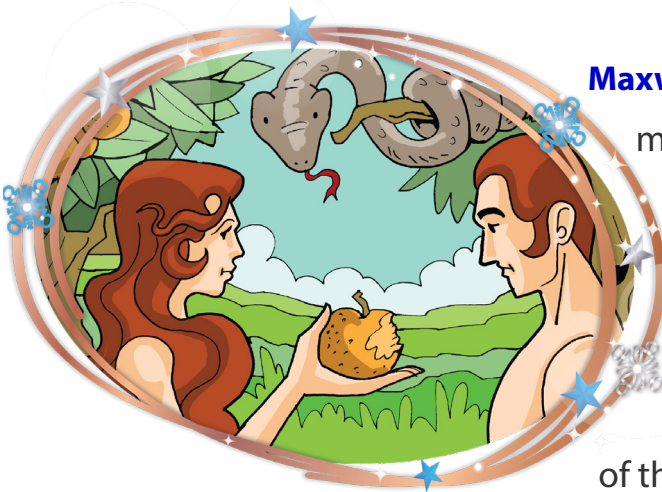
Our Eternal Life in Heaven

After all the creation, God created man in His own image. God filled the earth with peace and love.

“So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27)



But man fell into sin by obeying the Serpent (the devil) and broke God’s commandment. He ate from the tree that God commanded him not to eat from. Adam fell into sin and so did all humanity. Adam’s punishment fell on all humans born of him.



Maxwell: What was the punishment of Adam’s sin?

Captain: God’s judgment fell on Adam, Eve and all their descendants (children).

God told Adam, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;



but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you[f] shall surely die.”

(Genesis 2:17)

“For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23) As a result, man was separated from God. Similar to when a light bulb is disconnected from its electrical power source, it can no longer be turned on or produce light!

Adam’s nature was corrupted as a result of sin.

Kind of like when someone eats spoiled or toxic food, it can make them really sick and they’ll need medicine to get better or else it’ll kill them.

Man was expelled from Paradise:

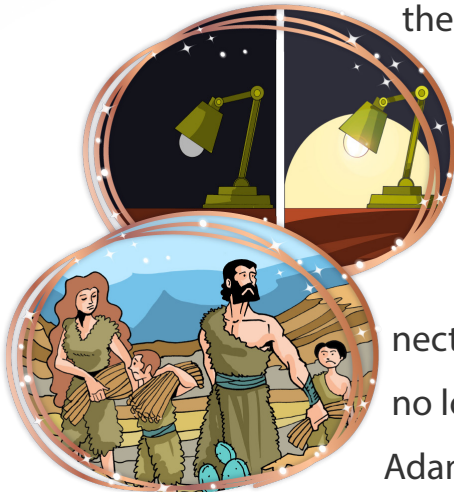
Because of sin, man inherited Adam’s sin, the punishment of death and his nature was corrupt. Accordingly, man lost his peace.

In order for man to restore life with God,

We needed to:

- 1- Lift the judgment of death.
- 2- Renew our corrupt nature as a result of sin.

Through God’s great love and His justice,





he gave us a promise that He will come and save us:

- 1- Jesus lifted the judgment of death from us by dying for us.
- 2- Renewed our nature and gave us a new life.

And as a result, we can gain our peace back.

This was the first Promise: God gave us the promise that He will be born of a Virgin and will conquer the devil.

“He shall bruise your head, and you shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15) In the fullness of time, He fulfilled His promise

and was born from the womb of our mother Virgin Mary, as He was incarnate, He filled the Earth with peace. On the day of His birth the angels praised saying,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

(Luke 2:14)



After His birth and while He was with us on

the earth, He said that He will suffer, be crucified, die, and finally, He will rise from the dead (Matthew 20:18-19)





He also promised that when he ascends to Heaven, He will prepare a place for us. "I go to prepare a place for you." (John 14:2)

He also promised that when he ascends to Heaven, He will send the Holy Spirit the Comforter. Peace is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus fulfilled all His promises:

- He saved us by being crucified on our behalf.
- He conquered death and was risen by the power of His Divinity on the third day.
- He lifted the judgment of death from us.
- He renewed our nature after it was corrupted by sin.
- He sent us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and established the holy church.



We should accept his Redemption and as a result:

- We believe in the Lord Jesus.
- We are His children through the Sacrament of Baptism and abide in Him through communion.
- If we sin, we can repent and confess our sins.

In this manner we can proclaim that we accept His redemption.

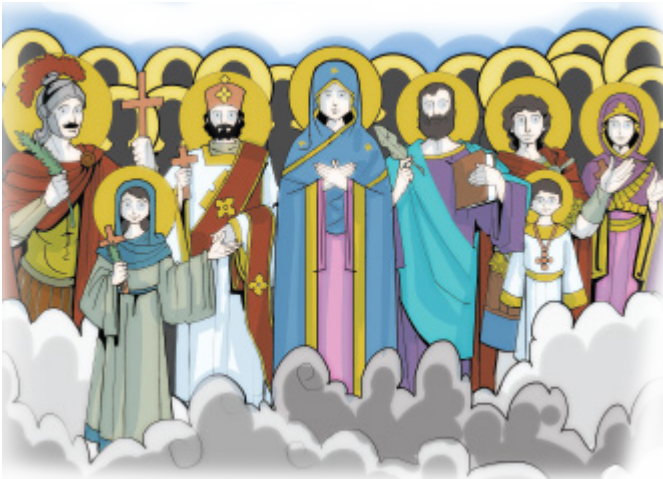




The sentence of death will be lifted from us, and our nature will be renewed.

In which manner, we can live with Christ in the place that He prepared for us in Heaven with eternal peace.

Maxwell: I wonder, what does Heaven look like?



Captain: Saint Paul Says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

-Saint John the Beloved, in the Book of Revelation, said, In Heaven God will be among us. We will live with Him eternally in the life of praise filled with joy, love and peace. "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them." (Revelation 21:3)





- There, we will be with our friends the angels and all the saints who preceded us and were waiting in Paradise (the Victorious Church)

- Life in Heaven will be eternally without sin (full of righteousness.)

People will not bother each other, or hate each other. There will be no conflict, lying, or cursing. There will be no hunger, thirst or exhaustion. As the verse says:





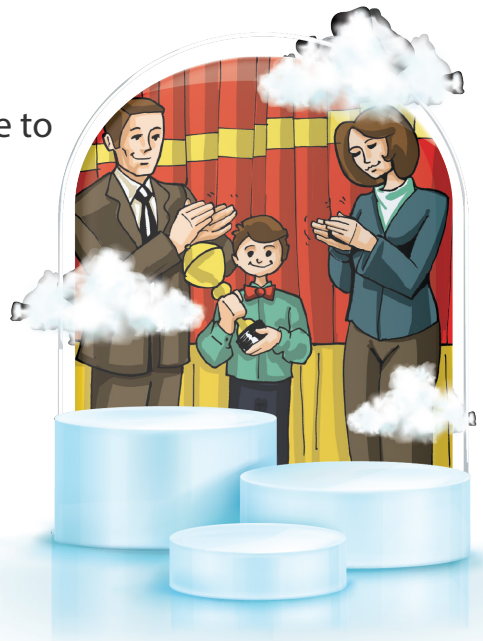
As we long and wait to be in Heaven, we love and enjoy our life on earth. We do our best to fulfill our roles and witness to the Lord in front of men.

Maxwell: Heaven is so beautiful, your words about Heaven gave me peace and made me joyful. I wish I can live there forever. I have a good idea! How about if we work together and help each other to find the Mountain Is-

land? When we find it we will all live in peace.

Everyone: Great Idea!

Maxwell: Perfect. I will send a message to our city, so they can have hope again.





My Peace is in My Wealthy Church

Narrator: As the friends were discussing the matter, the fire alarm went off! Maxwell panicked.

Joel: Don't worry, Maxwell. This alarm goes off if there an emergency on the Floating City.

Maxwell: Emergency, RUN!!

Patrick: Please don't panic, Maxwell. We have a very good security system set by our Great Grandfather, the Great Captain. We always follow it in emergencies. Everyone knows exactly what to do.

Captain: We have a safety plan for every emergency like crashing into rocks, or equipment failure. That's why we are not afraid, and we are living in peace. Let's all report to the Anaphora. Quickly!

Maxwell: I wish we had a safety book like yours. Unfortunately, every emergency causes so much damage to our city.

Patrick: Don't worry, the safest place is Fort Anaphora.

Maxwell: What's the Anaphora?





Joel: “Anaphora” is a Greek word and it means “The offering,” and it refers to the Divine Liturgy. The reason we called the fort Anaphora, is because the Divine Liturgy is one of the most beautiful prayers in our church. It fills us with peace.

Maxwell: Tell me more about it, please.





The Anaphora *(The Divine Liturgy)*

Joel: The beauty of our Coptic Orthodox Church is, that through the prayers, she teaches us how to enjoy peace. In all the church prayers the priest starts with the sign of the cross, and prays for blessing and peace for everyone. He says, "Peace be with you all."



The congregation responds, "And with your spirit."

The church teaches us that it is essential to pray for peace to come into our hearts. That's a necessary litany in our church.

One of the most beautiful prayers in our church, that fills our hearts with peace, is the Divine Liturgy.

As we attend the Liturgy, we enjoy the presence of the Lord Jesus with us. In the Liturgy we remember and live the life of Christ Jesus with all its details. (His suffering, His death, His resurrection, His ascension, and His second coming.)





Captain: The order of the events in the Liturgy is: "Preparing for Liturgy", "The Offering of the Lamb", "Liturgy of the Catechumens", and "Liturgy of the Believers"

Preparation for the Divine Liturgy:

Personal Preparation:

1- Repentance and Confession: everyone who sins must offer sincere repentance for his/her sin. He/she must make a decision not to do the same mistake again. Then that person must also confess their sin.



2- Reconciliation with others: if a person is in conflict with another, they must reconcile so that there may be peace between them. They must confess their sin.





3- Proper Clothing and Fasting: It is important that our clothing and our bodies be at the best appearance.

Being dressed properly and taking time to make sure we are all clean is important when preparing for the Divine Liturgy. We must also fast for at least 9 hours before communion.



Church Preparation:

Raising of Incense:

- The night before the Divine Liturgy
- The morning of the Divine Liturgy.

It is done to prepare the altar, the priest, and the congregation to receive the King of Peace in the Divine Liturgy.





The Offering of the Lamb:

1- Dressing for the Service: (Tunia) after the morning raising of the incense the priest and the deacons dress in their service tunias.



2- Book of Hours (Agpeya)

Prayers: The church begins to pray

the Book of Hours which is full of psalms and prayers that

give us peace. The offerings are present during that time because the psalms sanctify them.



3- Selection of the Lamb: The priest chooses the best kourbana (Bread) for the Lamb. He picks one that is perfect without any blemishes. During the selec-

tion of the Lamb the congregation and deacons pray "Kyrie eleison" 41 times. This way the church teaches her children to pray to God for the





forgiveness of sins and to be worthy of the communion. All these prayers give us peace. Later, the priest stands by the entrance of the altar and he lifts the Lamb on his head. In this position, the priest asks for the peace of the church. He says, "Peace and edification be unto the One Only, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of God."



4- Prayer of Thanksgiving:

The church begins all the prayers by the Prayer of Thanksgiving. In this prayer we ask for peace as we pray, "Grant us to complete this holy day, and all the days of our life, in all peace with Your fear." Then, the priest covers the chalice and the paten with the "prospherin" the cover of the altar . It is a symbol for the rock that was placed at the entrance of Christ's tomb. On the abrosfareen, the priest places a triangular handkerchief symbolizing the seal at the door of the Tomb.





At the end of the selection of the Lamb, the priest stands at the altar entrance and prays the absolution of the servants that absolute all attending from their sins.



Liturgy of the Catechumens:

1- The deacons start to **read the readings** from the "Katamares." This part of the Liturgy is called Liturgy of the Catechumens. Through the readings we feel God's presence with us and our hearts are filled with peace.





The readings:

- **Pauline Epistle:** Part of Saint Paul's Epistles.
- **Catholic Epistle:** Part of the epistles of Saints Peter, James, Jude, and John
- **Praxis:** part of the Book of Acts.
- **Synaxarium:** The life of the saint of the day.
- **Psalm and Gospel**
- **The Sermon**
- **The Creed:** after the sermon all the people proclaim their faith in a loud voice by reciting the Creed.

The Reconciliation Prayer:

The priest starts the **Reconciliation prayer** where he tells us how God reconciled the Heaven with the earth.

Then the deacon responds, "Pray for perfect peace, love, and the holy apostolic kisses."

When God fills our heart with His peace, we are able to reconcile with others. A sign of reconciliation would be a holy kiss.





The deacon says, "Greet one another with a holy kiss."

The prayer of reconciliation explains the reconciliation with Heaven, with ourselves and others.



After that the prospherin (chalice and paten cover) is lifted. It symbolizes the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The congregation then says "Through the intercession of the Theotokos..."





Liturgy of the Believers:

1- After the Prayer of Reconciliation, the liturgy of the Believers begins. Another name for this Liturgy is **the Anaphora** (raising the oblations)

Three sentences are said in this section:

- **The Lord be with you all.**
- **Lift up your hearts.**
- **Let us give thanks to the Lord.**

Also in this part, the Priest is telling everyone that we will be present in Heaven, so do not speak to others or get distracted.



2- After that the Priest prays and describes to us the scene of those who are praising around the throne of God, so we can also join them. We say, **“The Cherubim worship You,”** The priest then says, **“Agius, Agios, Agios.”** And starts to tell the story from the beginning of the creation to the second coming of Christ. At this time, we remember the incarnation.

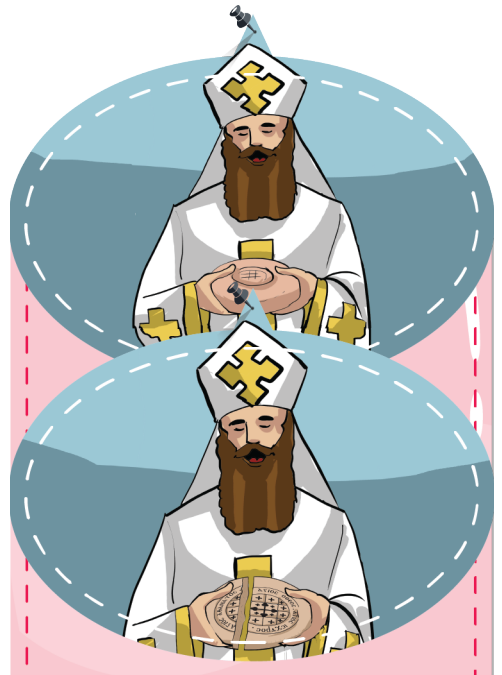




3- The Institution Narrative:

In this section the priest explains the process of which Christ founded the sacrament of Holy Communion that was established on Covenant Thursday.

The priest makes the sign of the Cross on the bread and the chalice 3 times while saying ,“ He gave thanks, blessed it, and sanctified it.” He also explains the condition for entering into Heaven, which is partaking communion, the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the verse says
says,





4- The Institution Narrative is one of the holiest parts of the Liturgy. It's the time of **the invocation of (calling on) the Holy Spirit**. The priest invites the Holy Spirit to descend on the bread and wine, turning them into the true Body and Blood of the Lord. The Holy Spirit also descends on all the people who are present to sanctify them and make them ready for Christ to enter and live within them. As a result, He gives us all peace.

5- The Litanies:

After the Institution Narrative, and with the presence of the Lord Jesus on the Altar, the priest prays the litanies (meaning supplications or requests.) One of the litanies is the Litany of Peace; in it the priest prays for the peace of the church. "Remember, O Lord, the peace of Your one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church."





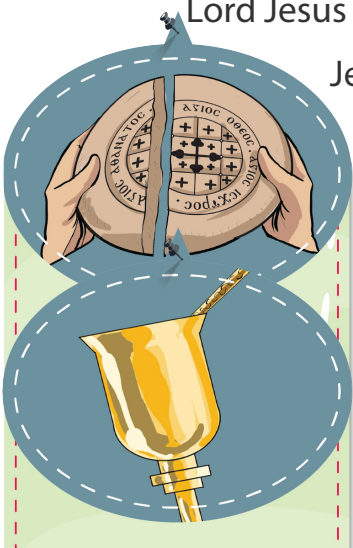
6- The Commemoration of the Saints:

The heavenly join the earthly during the Liturgy, so the priest mentions many saints. We pray for the heavenly and they pray for us. After the commemoration of the saints the priest says, "grant us Your peace unto the end." We remember those who preceded us to heaven and ask our Lord to have mercy on us, keep us and grant us His peace.



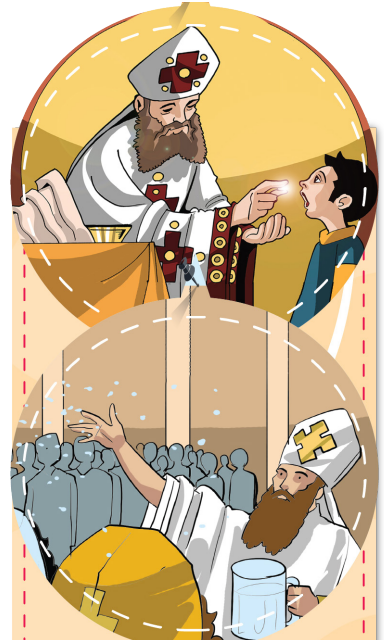
7- The Fraction:

After the Commemoration of the Saints, is the Fraction. The Fraction means the breaking of the Holy Body of our Lord Jesus (the bread that has been changed into the Body of Jesus Christ) This symbolizes the suffering of Christ on the cross. Then the priest prays the Lord's Prayer and recites the Confession Prayers which confirms that the priest is holding the true body and blood of Christ. The deacon responds, "The peace and love of Jesus Christ be with you. Let us sing Alleluia"





8- Communion: This is the last part of the Liturgy. The communion is when the priest, the deacons and the congregation receive the Body and Blood of Christ. After communion the priest dismisses the people saying, "Christ our God, O King of peace, grant us Your peace, establish for us Your peace, and forgive us our sins. Depart in peace. May the peace of the Lord be with you all."



Maxwell: The church is beautiful with the rite of the Liturgy which is full of peace. It makes so much sense why you call your fort "Anaphora."





I keep My Peace Through Everything

The friends were finally able to locate Mountain Island on the Radar. They assigned Joel and Patrick to explore it. Maxwell decided to go along so that he can message his people about this great discovery. The three friends left Floating City in a small boat with the required equipment for communication.

Maxwell: I am so scared. This boat is shaking so much. Did we just hit some rocks?

Joel: Hold on tight Patrick so you don't fall off. You're speeding! Slow down.

Patrick: Oh, you are scaredy-cats. What can happen? There is no such thing as real fear.

Joel: No, Patrick. Fear is a natural feeling in us. We should learn how to control it.





Natural (innate) Fear:

Fear is a natural instinct that God instilled in us. A person may fear the unknown, or an unex-

pected event. This type

of fear is normal. It is

innate in us to help

us avoid getting

hurt. It also makes us

be cautious not to confront dangerous things such as fire, heights, or high waves.



Maxwell: See Patrick! My fear of drowning is very normal.

Joel: We need to learn to avoid losing our peace and becoming excessively frightened. There are many things we can think about to reassure us of our safety. For example, we have life jackets, and we can swim.

Most importantly we know that God is protecting

us. In other words, let's not make our innate fear decrease or become excessive.

If our instinctive fear increased, we could become anxious, and so, we won't be able





to think right and we'd lose our peace.

If our instinctive fear decreased, we can become careless like Patrick. That would become dangerous. Moderation is important.



Because God knows that fear is a natural instinct within us, he said, "Be strong and of good courage;

do not be afraid, For the LORD your God

is with you wherever you go." He didn't say we should fear nothing but said and promised to be with us.





Saint Peter and Walking on the Water

(Matthew 14:13-33)



After the miracle of feeding the multitude, where Jesus fed about five thousand men, besides women and children with 5 loaves and 2 fish, Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side of the river, while He sent the multitudes away. And when



He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on



the mountain

by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night (at about 2-6





A.M) Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying,



Maxwell: This means that the disciples were scared.

Joel: It's normal to be scared of the wind, and be frightened to see someone walking on the water. But Christ did not tell them it was wrong to be scared, instead, he comforted them and said do not be afraid. And for as long as He is with them, they can overcome anything. Because Christ is Pantocrator (can do anything).





Maxwell: And then what happened next?

Joel: Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it

is You, command me to come to You on the water." (Matthew 14:28)

So, Jesus said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.



Maxwell: He walked on the water!!!

Joel: Yes, he did. Because God is Pantocrator, the Creator of all things, He is in control. So by the power of Jesus Christ, Peter was able to walk on the water in the middle of the storm, and God protected him.

This makes us trust in the presence of God with us. We know that our faith in God helps us overcome the fears or conflicts that we may face. And so, we gain everlasting peace.

If we feel scared when God is with us, that would mean that our faith is weak, and that we are not trusting God. Just as Saint Peter did.





Maxwell: What did he do?

Joel: When he saw that the wind was rowdy, he was afraid; and started to sink, so he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

For as long as Peter's eyes were fixed on Christ he was walking well. When he started looking away and watched the sea, he began to drown. But Peter did the right thing because when he felt scared, he called on Christ to save him.

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31) And when they got into the boat, the wind stopped.



Patrick: I think this time God rebuked Peter for his little faith because Peter had just seen Christ help him walk on the water. And a little while earlier Christ had just fed the multitude with only 5 loaves and 2 fish. Those were two powerful miracles. Peter should have been trusting instead of being scared.





Joel: You are right. That's why we don't get scared, and we are always trusting that we are in the bosom of Christ. If we get scared, we should:

-Remember that God is Pantocrator. He is our Father and He takes care of us in His bosom. If we are enjoying His fatherhood, we won't feel scared as the verse says, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Palm 23:1)

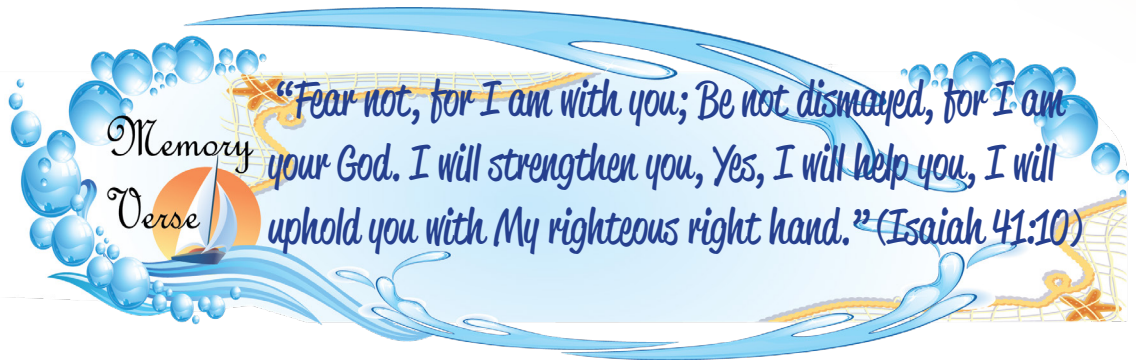


-Pray and practice the means of Grace

(Communion, fasting,

Confession, reading the Bible ...) remember and recite God's promises; this will give us comfort as God told us in the verse:





-Think about the reason of your fear. Ask for guidance so you can learn how to face your fear.

Maxwell: Thank you, Joel for this beautiful story. Now I know that I should not over react to my fears. Let's help each other cross this big rocky area.

Patrick: Joel, Maxwell, look is this a lighthouse? This must be Mountain Island. Let's head there!





I Give My Peace To Everyone Around Me

Narrator: The 3 friends landed safely on Mountain Island. Great Grandpa, the Great Captain was there welcoming them.

Grandpa: Welcome, Thank God for your safety my children. I was waiting for you for a long time.

Patrick: You look exactly as I imagined!

Joel: I am Joel. I heard many Great things about you. I am so happy to see you.

Maxwell: I am Maxwell. I also heard a lot about you. They were very right about trusting you. All your words, and your instructions that you left for your children and grandchildren were all right.

Patrick: We must send messages to the Floating City to let them know that we arrived here safely. They should also start moving towards here.

Grandpa: Come children, let me show you! This is the place where I would watch and wait for your safe arrival.

Joel: Oh Grandpa, you must be very tired.

Patrick: Please rest and we will wait for them here.

Grandpa: I will not rest, until everyone arrives here safely. Ever since I





came here, I've been working and preparing the place so you can be comfortable when you come. My joy is to see my children arrive to the island safely. This is what I learned, that a leader must keep the safety of his city and his people. He must sacrifice for them. Let me tell you about a brave leader in our church. I learned from him to sacrifice myself for my people.





Pope Peter the Seal of the Martyrs *(Synaxarium, Hatoor 29)*

This is a story about a saint from our Coptic Orthodox Church. He was one of the saints who shaped the early church. He was named the Brilliant Teacher at a very young age. Our saint was born into a Christian family to righteous parents. His mother, Sophia, was barren (has no children), so on the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, she went to church and prayed to our Lord Jesus with many tears to grant her a son. She promised that if she gets a son, that he will serve God. That



night she dreamed of Peter and Paul and they told her that the Lord accepted her prayers and that He would give her a son. They commanded her to go to the Patriarch, Pope Theonas, to bless her and pray for her. She woke up, and she told her husband who was a priest about her dream and they were both exceedingly glad. Then she went to the Patriarch and told him about her vision and asked him to pray for her. When she delivered the child, the Pope told the parents that they should call him Peter because he will be a great pillar in the Coptic Orthodox faith just like Saint Peter the Apostle.





Pope Theonas took special care of the child, Peter. He sent him to the theological school in Alexandria to get a good education. Peter excelled in preaching and counseling. He was then ordained a deacon at the age of 12 and was able to memorize the Old and the New Testament. Later at the age of 16 he was ordained a priest. Saint



Peter excelled so

much in all his studies, he was appointed as the leader of the Theological School of Alexandria.

Joel: I get it! That's why he was named the "Brilliant Teacher."

Grandpa: Exactly, Joel. Unfortunately, the Pope got very sick. He saw a vision of

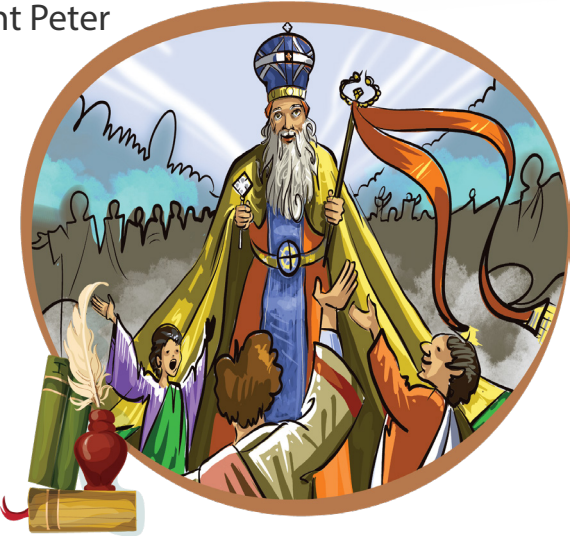
the Lord saying, "Good Gardener, hand your garden into the hands of Priest Peter's" The Pope invited Saint Peter and told him that the Lord chose him to lead the church. Before his departure, Pope Theonas told the people that Abba Peter will be his successor.





When he became the 17th Pope, Saint Peter enlightened the church by his teachings. He loved the people, and cared for the needy.

Unfortunately, the devil was trying to destroy the peace and cause persecution (bad treatment) against the church.



At the time of Pope Peter, Diocletian

was the ruling emperor. He encouraged the violent persecution against Christians, so a large number of Christians were martyred. The Pope, as a

good shepherd, traveled all the cities

and encouraged his people and

strengthened them to remain

strong in their faith. He also

encouraged them to fast,

pray, and keep the peace in

their hearts, and to be as-

sured that God is with them

at all times.





Memory
Verse

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Patrick: Pope Peter was a great saint, He cared about keeping his people reassured in the midst of tribulations and persecutions. He wanted everyone to remain in peace.

Grandpa: He cared for the peace of the people and the peace of the church.

He did not want anyone to change the faith that we received from our fathers the saints, which they received from Christ Himself. During his time a man named Arius was teaching the people some false ideas about Christ. Arius said that Christ was not God and that Christ was less in nature than God the Father.



Patrick: What did the Pope do about Arius?





Grandpa: In order to keep the upright Coptic faith and to keep the peace of the church, the Pope tried to advise Arius multiple times to turn from his wicked ideas, but Arius wouldn't listen to the Pope. Consequently, the Pope excommunicated Arius. That means that he banned him from the communion and the fellowship of the church.



Patrick: Pope Peter was a great hero. He protected the peace of the church against Arius.

Grandpa: There is another situation where Pope Peter protected the peace of the church and the people. He sacrificed for them. The pope wrote many articles against paganism to confirm the people in the Christian faith. So, the king arrested him and ordered to behead the pope. During this difficult time two stories happened to prove the Pope's care for the peace of the church and the peace of his people.





The First Story:

When Arius the heretic heard that the Pope will be departing, leaving him under the ban of excommunication, he asked two priests, Achillas and Alexander, of the Pope's disciples to speak to the Pope about absolving him. The pope refused and told the priests that the Lord Christ appeared to him wearing a torn robe.

Saint Peter asked the Lord, "My Lord, who ripped Your robe?"

The Lord replied, "**Arius has ripped My robe because he separated Me from My Father. Beware of accepting him.**"

Pope Peter commanded the priests to follow Christ's words.



Joel: The pope showed courage keeping the peace of the church. How about the peace of his people?





The second Story:

Grandpa: When the people heard about their shepherd's arrest, they gathered in front of the prison door and wanted to save him by force. They chanted, "kill us first then take our Patriarch!"

The Pope saw what had happened, so he feared for the safety of his flock. Saint Peter sent a message to the ruler asking him to be led out of the prison through the back doors away from the crowds. He wanted to avoid causing any harm to the people. The ruler asked the soldiers to lead the Pope away from the crowd to the place of execution.



On the way there the Pope asked to be stopped by the tomb of Saint Mark the Evangelist. There he prayed and asked the Lord, "Let the shedding of my blood mark the end of idol worshipping and the end of the shedding of the blood of Christians."

A voice came from Heaven and was heard by a saintly virgin who





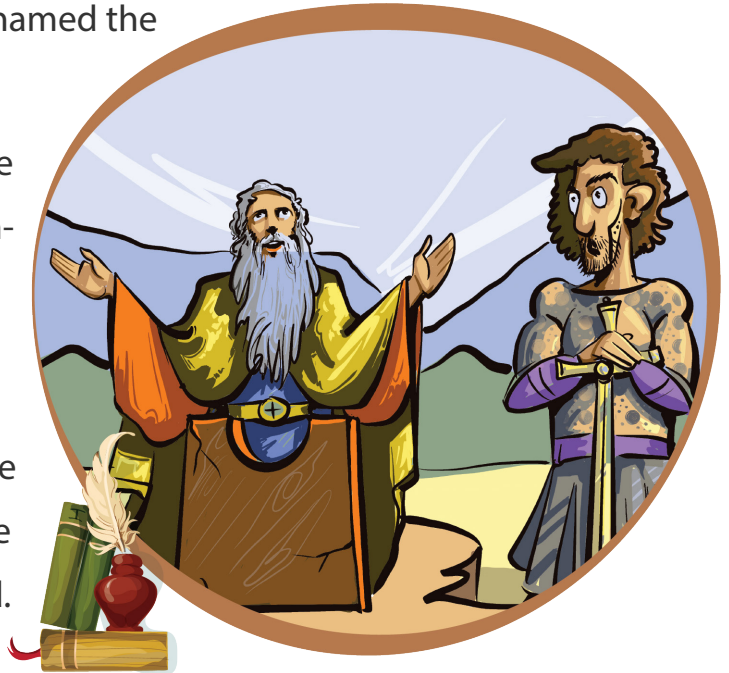
was praying nearby, "Peter, the first disciple and Peter, the seal of the martyrs of this persecution."

When Saint Peter finished prayers, they beheaded (killed) him on 29th of Hatour. That's why he was named the Seal of the Martyrs.

Patrick: Grandpa, Look! The floating cities are approaching!!

Maxwell: I see our city too!

Grandpa: Quickly, let's shine the lights on the lighthouse to guide them to the Island. I will run down to greet them.



Grandpa went down the mountain, and the Floating cities docked by the Mountain Island. Everyone was happy. Grandpa started showing them around and explaining to them how he prepared the island for them. He prepared living spaces for everyone. Everyone suggested to keep that day as an annual holiday to celebrate their new home. They named the island, City of Peace.





Memorization

CONCLUSION OF EVERY HOUR

Have mercy on us, O God, and have mercy on us, who, at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth, is worshipped and glorified, Christ our God, the good, the long suffering, the abundant in mercy, and the great in compassion, who loves the righteous and has mercy on the sinners of whom I am chief; who does not wish the death of the sinner but rather that he returns and lives, who calls all to salvation for the promise of the good things to come.

Lord receive from us our prayers in this hour and in every hour. Ease our life and guide us to fulfill Your commandments. Sanctify our spirits. Cleanse our bodies. Conduct our thoughts. Purify our intentions. Heal our diseases. Forgive our sins. Deliver us from every evil grief and distress of heart. Surround us by Your holy angels, that, by their camp, we may be guarded and guided, and attain the unity of faith, and the knowledge of Your imperceptible and infinite glory. For You are blessed forever. Amen.





Memorization

PSALM 69 O God, be mindful to my help

O God, be mindful to my help; make haste, O Lord, to help me. Let them be ashamed and be scorned, those who seek my soul: let them be turned backward and put to shame, those who wish to do evil unto me. Let those who say to me, "Aha, aha," be turned back in shame immediately. Let all who seek You exult and be glad in You: and let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let the Lord be magnified." But I am poor and weak; O God, help me: You are my Helper and Savior, O Lord, do not delay. ALLELUIA.





Memorization

THE GOSPEL OF THE FIRST HOUR

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not the Light, but was sent to bear witness to the Light. That was the true Light that gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world did not know Him. He came unto His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born,





not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-Begotten of His Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, `He who comes after me is preferred before me: for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Glory be to God forever. Amen





Memorization

LITANIES OF THE FIRST HOUR

1. O the true Light Who gives light to every man coming into the world, You came into the world through Your love for mankind, and all creation rejoiced in Your coming. You saved our father, Adam, from the seduction, and delivered our mother, Eve, from the pangs of death, and gave us the spirit of sonship. Let us, therefore, praise You and bless You saying :

Δοξα Πατρι κε Υιω κε α̅τιω Πνευματι

2. As the daylight shines upon us, O Christ Our God, the true Light, let the luminous senses and the bright thoughts shine within us, and do not let the darkness of passions hover over us, that mindfully we may praise You with David saying, "My eyes hastened to awake before the dawn, that I might meditate on Your sayings." Hear our voices according to your great mercy, and deliver us, O Lord our God, through Your compassion.





Κε Νῆν κε ἄἰ κε ἰς τοῦς ἑῶνας τῶν ἑῶ- νων: Ἄλλη

3. You are the honored Mother of the Light; from the risings of the sun to its settings praises are offered to you, O Theotokos, the second heaven, for you are the bright and unchanging flower, and the ever virgin mother; for the Father chose you, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed you, and the Son condescended and took flesh from you. Wherefore, ask Him to give salvation to the world which He created, and to deliver it from all tribulations. Let us praise Him a new praise, and bless Him, now and forever and unto the ages of all ages. Amen





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