



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

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## THE PRAISES OF KIAKH *By ABOUNA PISHOY KAMEL*

The praise of Kiakh (also called “7” and “4”) on the Eve on Sunday is the praise of every eve of Sunday all year, since Sunday is the day of the Resurrection when the Church stays awake until daybreak. Eventually, it contacts the dawn of eternity, whose sun never leaves, because the Lord Jesus, the true Light, the Sun of Righteousness, will be its light.

**The Prayer of the Midnight Hour:** It begins with the Agpeya prayer in which the gospel of the meeting with the virgins who lit their lamps (Mat 25:1-13) is read, then the gospel of repentance out of love for Christ, offering feelings of their love with the fragrant oil which the woman poured (Luke 7:36-50). Then it concludes the appointed times of the Lord for the little flock separated from the world whom the Lord became their share (Luke 12:32-46).

**"Arise, O you sons of light":** The Midnight Praise begins with the hymn ten theenou, "Arise, O you sons of light so we may praise the Lord of powers." Here the mystery of watchfulness is disclosed. Watchfulness is standing in the light of Christ in order to praise the Lord of powers, because in His light, we shall see light. In the light of Christ, Christ's person is revealed to us, so we praise Him. Thus, the Lord Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12) "who has shown in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2Cor 4:6). And concerning this the Apostle goes on saying, "You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night, nor of the darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober...But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation (1Thess 5:4-8). Indeed, those who have the right to rise with the sons of light are those who shine their lamps. Because of this, this hymn is considered permission for the possessors of the shining lamps to enter the wedding with the bridegroom when the cry comes, "Behold the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him." Because of this, the Apostle says, "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light" (Eph 5:14).

**The Word "Watch":** It is one of the most repeated words in the Bible. Watchfulness is spiritual gratification. It is difficult to become accustomed to it devoid of the church praises, for watchfulness in praise and glorification with the saints is practicing being with God. It is preparation for an everlasting meeting with the heavenly bridegroom. Watchfulness, in the beginning, is heavy work. It ends with the love of Christ and His grace leading to a customary and delightful desire which the person seeks out with diligence.

## “HE TOOK WHAT IS OURS AND GAVE US WHAT IS HIS” *By St. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA*

He took what was ours to be His very own so that we might have all that was His. “He was rich but he became poor for our sake, so that we might be enriched by His poverty.” (2 Cor. 8:9). When they say that the Logos of God did not become flesh, or rather did not undergo birth from a woman according to the flesh, they bankrupt the economy of salvation. For if He who was rich did not impoverish Himself, abasing Himself to our condition out of tender love, then we have not gained His riches but are still in our poverty, still enslaved by sin and death, because the Logos becoming flesh is the undoing and the abolition of all that fell upon human nature as our curse and punishment...

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# EVENTS AT ST. MINA'S IN 2009

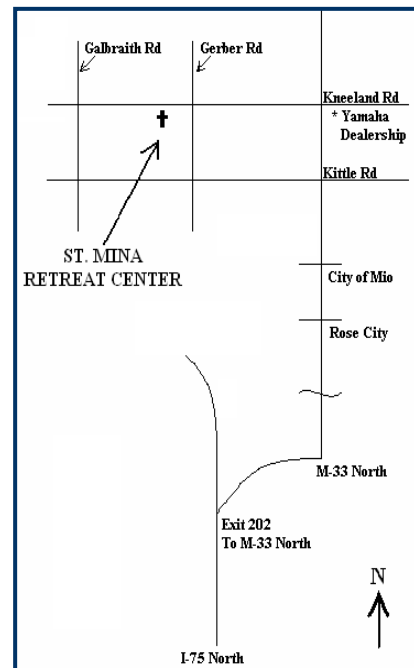
October 8-10	Family Retreat
November 5 -7	Family Retreat
November 23	Vespers for the Feast of St. Mina
November 24	Holy Liturgy celebrating the Feast of St. Mina

## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS RETREAT

**RETREAT THEME: "HOW TO DEAL WITH YOUR PARENTS"**

**"You could really feel the fellowship and unity when we were all sitting together in one group with one spirit."**

A group of 51 middle school youth was very excited to gather together and spend quality time together, while getting closer to God and learning about how to bring God's love in an interactive way with our parents and siblings. We had lots of opportunities for open discussions and had a great time sharing thoughts with one another. This year, we even had the chance to take confession with Abouna. Thursday night, we all gathered together in the church to pray the Asheya and prepare for the Divine Liturgy and sing praises for St. Mina. After the Liturgy on Friday, we all went rafting on the Ausable River and had fun splashing and laughing together. The retreat center is a great place to connect with God and even find quiet time for meditation. The long acres of land allowed us to enjoy riding the golf carts and even take a ride on the paddle boat in the beautiful pond. The basketball and volleyball tournaments were lots of fun and gave us a chance to get to know each other better. At night, we would gather around the campfire and roast marshmallows and sing hymns and praises. We had so much fun this year and are so excited for the next time we will be able to stay in Mio all together and enjoy this real spiritual fellowship and fun once again.



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