

## Mid-Lent

Dearly beloved:

**W**hat is the significance and importance of the Mid-Lent? Why is our church celebrating it on the 4th Wednesday during the Great Lent? On this day in middle of Great Lent, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Cross. As we all know, the New Testament is the display of the hidden truths of the Old Testament. In addition, we can see in the Old Testament many shadows of the events of the New Testament. For example, the sacrifice of Isaac on Mount Moriah is considered to be the shadow of the sacrifice on Mount Calvary. Jesus is the only One Who came down from heaven and knows what transpired there.

**A**ccording to today's Bible readings, the Israelites, led by Moses, were on their way to the Promised Land. When they had no water to drink or bread to eat, they fought against God and His servant Moses. But because of Moses' prayers and intercessions, God blessed the Israelites with Manna and Birds' meat. Despite being provided adequate food, they continued to speak against God. When Moses had to stay with God for 40 days on top of the mountain, the Israelites became impatient, said bad things about Moses, and started to discredit God's name. They gathered their gold ornaments and made a golden calf, making it their object of worship. The Lord God become very angry and sent fiery serpents, biting the Israelites; many of them died. Terrified at God's vengeance, they came to Moses and said; we have sinned and spoken against the Lord, and pleaded with him to pray to the Lord so that the serpents will be taken away from them. Moses prayed for the people, and God said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it upon a pole, and anyone who has been bitten can look at it and shall live". According to God's command, Moses made a brass serpent, put it upon a pole, and all those who looked at it were saved. Indeed, Moses' golden serpent was a symbol of Christ's cross.

**O**n this day, according to our faith, we erect the "N'ortho", which identifies Golgotha in the middle of the church, so that all who come inside the church could meditate on the Cross, the symbol of Christ's crucifixion and death. It is believed that Jesus Christ was crucified at the very center of earth so that everybody could see what He did so that we might be saved. When we look at the cross, we get cured from all our spiritual illnesses. Today, during the middle of Holy Qurbana, our Achen takes the cross from the "N'ortho" and brings it up to the altar. There will be a special service to celebrate the elevation of the Holy Cross. All are requested to attend this important Church service on this day.

**Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for the Mid-Lent commemoration.**

### Bible readings for Tuesday, March 21st, 2006.

(Mid-Lent)

#### Before Holy Qurbana:

**Numbers** - **21: 4-9**  
**Psalms** - **34: 1-9**  
**Zechariah** - **12: 6-14**

#### Holy Qurbana

General Epistles: **Acts** - **15: 22-33**  
Epistles of St. Paul: **II Corinthians** - **9: 1-15**  
Holy Gospel: **St. John** - **3: 13-21**

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex