

## 5 - St. Mina

### Objective:

- ❖ To learn from the courage of St. Mina

### Memory Verse:

—He who has the Son has life! (1John 5:12)

### References:

- ❖ The Life of Mar Mina - Issued by Sunday School, Mar Mina church, Alexandria.
- ❖ The Biography of Mar Mina - Shubra.
- ❖ Synaxarium, 15 Hathour
- ❖ Martyrdom in Christianity - Anba Youannis.

### Introduction:

- ❖ When teaching this lesson the servant should emphasize the lessons that can be learned and applied in our life from the life of St. Mina, rather than just teaching the story of St. Mina

### Lesson Outline:

#### I. His Biography

St. Mina was born of Christian parents- His father was Orcosius and his mother was Ophemiah.

He lived in the town of Nipneus-Minuf-in the Minufya Governorate.

Orcosius was a governor of one of the Roman states in one of the regions of Egypt.

Ophemiah was praying before the virgin's icon requesting the Lord to give her a son. She heard a voice coming from the icon saying; Amen. She gave birth to a baby boy in 283 and named him —MINA.

#### II. A Blessed Atmosphere

Mina lived in a spiritual and pure atmosphere.

His father and mother departed to heaven (died) and his wealth, health and social status did not spoil him.

He joined the army and progressed quickly. He was promoted and became an officer loved by all.

#### III. In the Wilderness School

When the saint was 18 years old, he went to the wilderness.

He lived an angelic life and loved the gospel.

#### IV. Three Crowns

The saint was blessed by attaining three crowns: Virginity, Monasticism and Martyrdom and he deserved these crowns as he deserted the family life and the life of authority and luxury. They offered him temptations and he refused and they tortured him and he stood firm in faith. He was glad to offer his life willingly to Christ. They cut his head off in the name of the Lord Jesus and he deserved the crown of Martyrdom.

#### V. The Saint's Body

The soldiers made an attempt to burn the body and they failed to do so.

The Christian leader Athanasius kept the body and took it to Mariot as there was a battle.

Horrible animals came out of water and tried to devour the ship but fiery arrows came out of the body of the saint and dashed towards the animals and made them sink in the water.

After the military battle the camel that was carrying the body of the saint refused to move so they built him a tomb and made two pictures of the saint and two beasts under his feet.

#### VI. Building a Church Over His Body

A crippled man passed by the tomb and was healed. A scabby sheep rolled itself in the dust of the tomb and it was healed. So the believers built a church in that place in the time of St. Athanasius (328-373 A.D). Then Anba Theophilis built up a bigger church (385-412 A.D).

#### VII. Finding The Body

The saint appeared to the church priest on 7/9/1873 (St. Mina Church- Fom el Khalig- Old Cairo) and told him about the place of the hidden body. The priest found the body. A part of it was taken to his church in Old Cairo in 1959, and another part was taken to Mariot Monastery in 1962 after Pope Kyrillous VI reconstructed it.

#### VIII. The Saint's Miracles

The saint is called the —Al Agaybil i.e. the wonders worker and his title demotes the style of performing his miracles.

##### He defended his servant

Who was accused of doing wrong but he was innocent. The servant of St. Mina church was wrongly accused of doing an evil deed. When he was tired a voice came out of the picture of Mar Mina saying: —My servant did not do that evil deed with the prince's daughter.

##### He sympathized with the needy

One of the workers who worked in building the church of St. Mina was a poor man. A horseman appeared to him and gave him a brick. He thought it was a brick of mud, but it was a brick of gold.

##### He saved our Patriarch from death

Some robbers beat Pope Kyrillous VI in his mill. St. Mina healed him and one of the robbers became mad, the second died and the third came to our father and repented.

The church celebrates the feast of the Saint twice a year:

- (1) On 15 Hathour (24<sup>th</sup> of November) the feast of his Martyrdom.
- (2) 15 Paone (21<sup>st</sup> of June) the memory the dedication of his church.

**Conclusion:**

St. Mina is a great example of Christian courage. He was strong in the faith even at a young age. His solitude started when he was a teenager. God has granted him three crowns and even his body was a source of blessing and miracles after his departure.