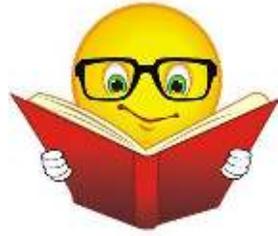




CHURCH STUDY



1- THE CHURCH VESSELS



THE CHALICE

The Communion Cup , which holds the wine that will become the Holy Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Divine Liturgy.

The Chalice is made from precious metals such as: gold and silver .The Coptic Chalice has a bell-shaped form, the stem is long and rests on a circular stand.

THE SPOON



*The Spoon in Coptic is called “Mytsteer” .
Used to give the Blood of Christ during communion.*



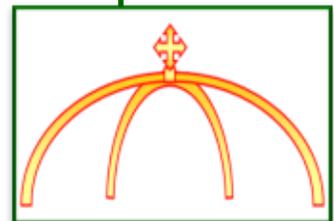
THE PATEN

*It is a small round tray, without a stand. It is usually made of silver or gold.
It holds the bread that will become the Holy Body of our Lord Jesus Christ
in the Divine Liturgy.
It's symbolic meaning is the Lord's manger and tomb.*

THE DOME (STAR)

*It is called in Arabic “Dome ” and in Greek “Asth” or (Asterisk),
and consists of two silver arched bands, held by a screw, crossed
over each other into the shape of a cross, usually surmounted by a
small cross.*

*It represents the shape of the tomb and also reminds us of the star
that appeared to the Wise Men*



THE CHURCH VESSELS- cont.

THE SEAT (THRONE)



In the middle of the Altar, there is a wooden box, called in Coptic 'pitotc' which means 'a seat' or 'a throne', and is used as a Chalice-Stand.

Usually it is cubicle in shape, the top is closed with high flaps. It is decorated with four small icons or more.

It is called 'the Throne' for it represents the presence of the Crucified Lord.

THE CENSER

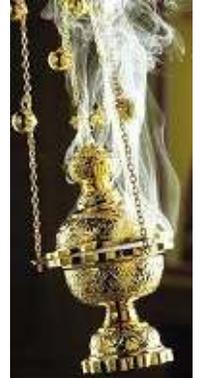
❖ *The vessel used to burn incense, it is made of brass or silver. The container is suspended on three chains from which it can be swung during the offering of the incense.*

❖ *In our church, the censer symbolizes St. Mary who bore the "True coal burning with Fire", that is the incarnate Son of God. Its three chains remind us of the Holy Trinity who participated in the Incarnation of the Son. For the Father sent His Son, the Son obeyed, and the Holy Spirit came upon the virgin for the Incarnation of the Son.*

❖ *The upper dome represents heaven.*

❖ *The incense represents prayers. "Let my prayer rise like incense before you" Psalm 141:2*

*"Golden bowl full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints"
Revelation 5:8*



THE BOOK OF THE GOSPEL



A box covered with silver or gold in which there is a copy of the New Testament. It is decorated with icons. One side has the icon of the Resurrection or Crucifixion and the other side has icon of the Patron Saint or St. Mary and the Child Jesus.

THE CHURCH VESSELS- cont.



THE CIBORIUM

A box where the Sacrament is placed to be taken to someone who could not come to church to take communion

THE BOX OF INCENSE

A box for incense which is usually of silver or carved wood. It is placed at the right hand of the priest. A small spoon is usually placed in the incense box and used for putting the incense in the censer



THE CRUETS OF WATER AND WINE

In the divine liturgy, two small vessels are used, one for the holy wine and another for water. These vessels are made of glass, but in olden times it was sometimes made of gold or silver.



The Cymbals

Musical Instruments

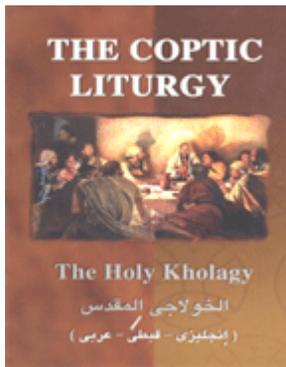


The Triangle

Coptic church uses musical instruments such as the triangle and the cymbals to accompany the Coptic hymns.



2- THE CHURCH BOOKS



The Liturgical Book (Kholagy)

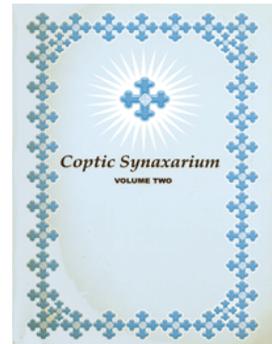
The book that has the three Divine Liturgies prayed in the Coptic Orthodox church (the liturgy of St. Basil, St. Gregory, St. Cyril (Kirollos).

The book also contains the prayer of “offering of incense” and other prayers for example the different fraction prayers for different church occasions

The Synaxarium

A historical book which contains stories about the prophets, the apostles, the martyrs and the saints in general.

It is read in the Divine Liturgy after the Praxis (Acts of the Apostles).



The Psalmody

A book that contains all praises sung through out the year.

The 2 different Psalmodies.

Annual Psalmody: contains praises for all the days of the week and all occasions except for the month of Kiahk.

Kiahk Pasmody: contains all the praises for the month of Kiahk



The Deacon Service Book

Contains all the responses and chants of the church



The Pascha book

Contains all the hymns, rites and readings for the Holy week, starting from Palm Sunday until the Feast of the Resurrection.



El-Doskoleya

It is a Greek word, which refers to the teachings and sayings of our Fathers the Apostles, which later became the Canon or rules of the church.

The “Katamares”

A book that has the daily scripture reading used in the liturgical service throughout the year.

There are 5 different Katamares.

Katamares for Sundays, Katamaress for the week days, Katamares for Great Lent, Katamares for Holy Week and Katamares for Holy 50 days.

Antiphonarium The “Difnar” in Coptic

Contains glorifications and brief stories of the saints of the day. Used during the midnight Praise

THE CHURCH BOOKS- Cont.



The Agpeya

The *Agpeya* contains prayers for seven different hours to be prayed throughout the day, each containing a theme corresponding to events in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In addition to the Veil (extra prayer for monks)



"Seven times a day, do I praise you because your righteous Judgements" (Psalm 119:164)

The word Agpeya is a Coptic word meaning "Book of Hours." It is based on the Coptic word, ti agp, which means "hour."



Each hour is composed of an introduction which includes the Lord's Prayer, the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Psalm 50 followed by various Psalms an excerpt from the Holy Gospel and the litanies.

"Lord Have Mercy" is then said 41 times (representing the 39 lashes Christ received before the crucifixion, plus one for the spear in His side and one for the crown of thorns)

Followed by "Holy, Holy, Holy.." the absolution and the conclusion of every hour

Other prayers depending on the hour:

- ❖ Come let us kneel down
- ❖ Pauline Epistle Ephesians 4: 1-5
- ❖ The Faith of the church
- ❖ The Gloria
- ❖ Trisagon
- ❖ Hail to you
- ❖ The introduction of the Creed
- ❖ The Orthodox Creed

The *Agpeya* has also selected prayers for example:

- Prayers before and after confession
- Prayers before and after Communion
- Prayer for asking God for guidance
- Prayer before meals

The Agpeya is also prayed after the prime raising of incense before the offering of the Lamb in the Divine Liturgies (except for the liturgies of the Nativity, the Epiphany and the Resurrection)

THE PRAYERS OF THE AGPEYA



PRIME (1ST HOUR)

This hour is prayed early in the morning. To commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray it to give thanks to the Lord for the beginning of the new day asking Him to grant us the power of His resurrection.

TERCE (3RD HOUR)

In this hour of the day, the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles as tongues of fire (Acts 2:15). Also during this hour, our Lord Jesus Christ was condemned.



SEXT (6TH HOUR)

In this hour, our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. We commemorate the Passion of Christ



NONE (9TH HOUR)

This hour commemorates the death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and the testimony of the right hand thief.



COMPLINE (12TH HOUR)

This hour commemorates the laying down of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ in the tomb.



VESPERS (11TH HOUR)

To commemorate the hour in which the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was taken down from the cross and anointed with spices and wrapped in linen.



MIDNIGHT PRAYER

This hour includes three services (Watches) corresponding to the three times our Lord prayed in Gethsemane. It also Emphasizes being watchful and getting ready for the second coming of our Lord.