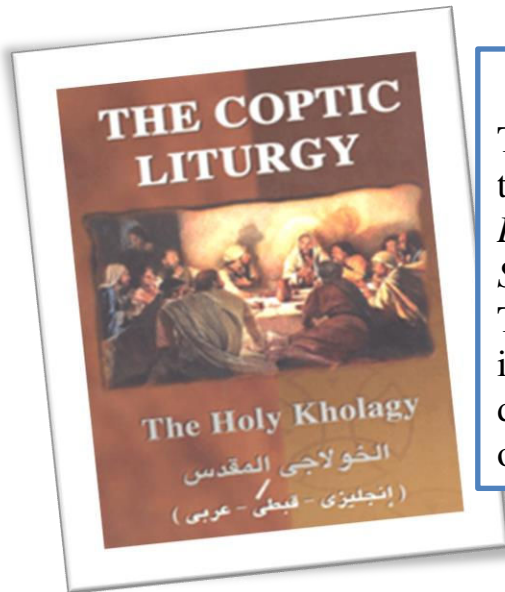
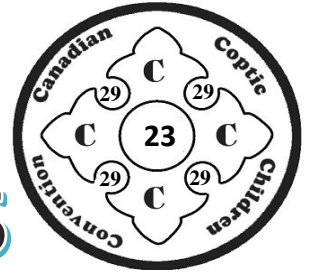


CHURCH STUDY

THE CHURCH BOOKS



THE LITURGICAL BOOK (KHOLAGY)

This book has the three Divine Liturgies prayed in the Coptic Orthodox church (*the liturgy of St. Basil, the liturgy of St. Gregory and the liturgy of St. Cyril*).

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

THE SYNEXARIUM

This book includes short accounts on the lives of the saints or feasts and fasts arranged according to the Coptic Calendar. It is read in the Divine Liturgy after the Praxis (the Book of Acts) reading. We do not read the Synexarium during the Holy 50 days following Easter.



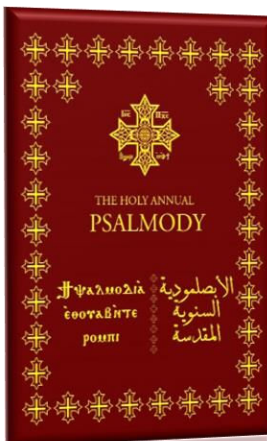
THE PSALMODY

This book contains all praises sung throughout the year.

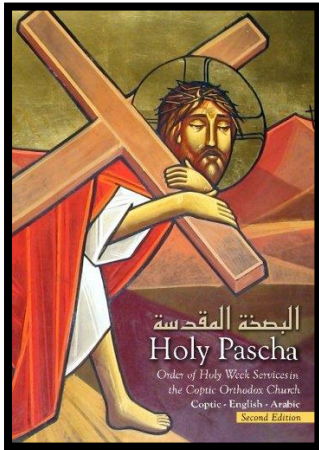
The 2 different Psalmodies:

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

Kiahk Psalmody: contains all the praises for the month of Kiahk.



THE CHURCH STUDY- cont.



THE PASCHA BOOK

This book contains all the hymns, rites, and readings of the Holy Week, starting from Palm Sunday until the Feast of the Resurrection.

THE KATAMARES

This book has the daily scripture readings used in the liturgical service throughout the year.

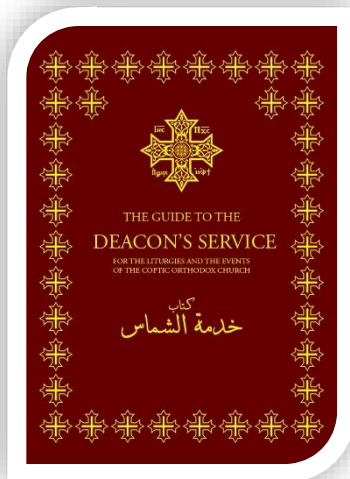
There are 5 different Katamares:

- Sundays
- Weekdays,
- The Great Lent
- Holy Week
- The Holy 50 days

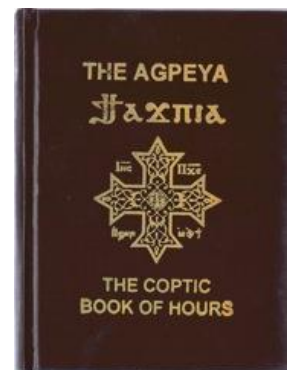


THE DECON SERVICE BOOK

This book contains all the responses and chants of the church.



"Seven times a day, do I praise You because of your righteous judgements"
Psalm 119:164



THE AGPEYA

This book 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.

Also, the Veil prayed by bishops, priests and monks in addition to the seven main prayers.

THE CHURCH STUDY- cont.

THE AGPEYA – Cont.



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

The Agpeya is also prayed after the prime raising of incense before the offering of the Lamb in the Divine Liturgies with the exception of the liturgies of the Nativity, Epiphany and Resurrection. We do not pray the Agpeya during the Holy Week.



Each hour is composed of an introduction which includes the **Lord’s prayer**, the **prayer of Thanksgiving** and **Psalm 50**. Followed by **various psalms** and excerpt of the **Holy Gospel** and the **litanies** (*petitions*) *the number of litanies is 3 or 6 depending on the hour, in the 3rd litany of each hour we ask for the intercession of St. Mary on our behalf.*

“**Lord Have Mercy**” (*Kyrie eleison*) is then said 41 times (representing the 39 lashes Christ received before the crucifixion, plus one for the spear on His side and one for the crown of thorns”, followed by “**Holy, Holy, Holy**”, the **absolution of the hour** 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 (*One is God the father,....*)
- ❖ The Gloria (*Let us praise with the angels*)
- ❖ Trisagon (*Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal*)
- ❖ Hail to St. Mary
- ❖ The introduction of the Creed (*We exalt you O Mother of true Light..*)
- ❖ The Orthodox Creed
- ❖ Arise, you, O children of the light to praise the Lord of Hosts ..

The Agpeya also has **selected prayers**, for example: Prayers before and after Confession and Communion
Prayer for asking God for guidance
Prayer before meals.

THE CHURCH STUDY- cont.

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, we commemorate 3 significant events:

- The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles as tongues of fire (Acts 2:15).
- Christ's trial by Pilate.
- Christ's ascension to heaven.



SEXT (6TH HOUR)

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



NONE (9TH HOUR)



In this hour, we commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and the testimony of the right thief. We pray that our Savior makes us partakers of His grace and accepts our repentance when we cry out with the thief, "Remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your Kingdom." (Luke 23:42).

THE CHURCH STUDY- cont.

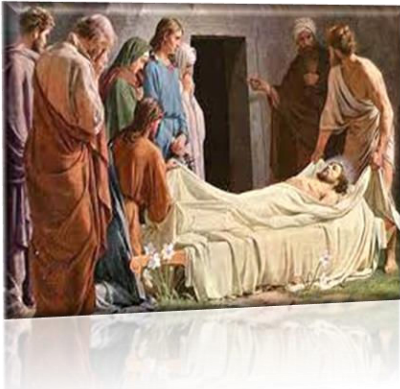
VESPERS (11TH HOUR)



In this hour, we commemorate the body of our Lord Jesus Christ taken down from the cross and anointed with spices and wrapped in linen.

At the end of the day, we give thanks to God for His protection, and ask that we may be counted among the labors who were called at the eleventh hour of the day (Matthew 20:1-16).

COMPLINE (12TH HOUR)



In this hour, we commemorate the laying down of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ in the tomb (burial).

We ask God for the forgiveness of our sins and protection through the night.

MIDNIGHT PRAYER

This hour includes three services (Watches) corresponding to the three times our Lord prayed in Gethsemane. It also reminds us to be watchful and be ready for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

