

CHURCH STUDY

COPTIC ORTHODOX FEASTS



7 MAJOR FEASTS OF THE LORD

1- The Annunciation

(Baramhat 29, April 7)



It commemorates the angel Gabriel's announcement to St. Mary that she would conceive Jesus, by the Holy Spirit.



2- The Nativity of Jesus (*Christmas*)

(Kiahk 29, January 7)

It is preceded by a 43 days fast. It is one of the most

joyful days of the Orthodox Church. The day that Jesus became a man and came into the world for our salvation. Also known as the "**Incarnation of Christ**".

3- The Baptism of Jesus (*Epiphany*)

Tubah 11, January 19

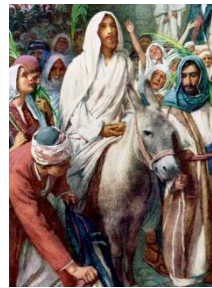
When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. This feast is also called the feast

of the divine manifestation because the Holy Trinity was manifested: The Son in the Jordan, the Father in heaven saying; "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased", and the Holy Spirit appears "like a dove". In this feast we also pray the water liturgy (**Lakan**).



4- Palm Sunday

Does not have a fixed date. It is the Sunday which precedes Easter. The church commemorates the entry of our Lord Jesus into Jerusalem.



At the end of the liturgy, a general funeral service is held on behalf of anyone who may die during the Holy Week, since the regular funeral prayers are not conducted during this week.

5- Easter Sunday

(The Resurrection) It is preceded by the Great Lent (55 days) and is considered as the "**Feast of Feasts.**"

Its delight continues for 50 days until the Pentecost with no fasting and no kneeling (Metanias).

6- The Ascension

It is celebrated 40 days after Easter. It is always on a **THURSDAY!**



7- The Pentecost

It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. It represents the birthday of the Christian Church.



We celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in the Upper Room. In the Liturgy, the litanies of the 3rd hour are prayed after the Praxis. The church conducts three sets of prayers, called "**Worship Prayers**". The Fast of the Apostles starts on the next day after Pentecost.

COPTIC ORTHODOX FEASTS- Cont.

7 MINOR FEASTS OF THE LORD

1- The Circumcision of our Lord

(Tubah 6, January 14)

It is celebrated 8 days after Christmas. When it was time to circumcise our Lord, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived.

2- The Miracle at Cana of Galilee

(Tubah 13, January 22)

Our Lord changed the water into wine, as His **FIRST** miracle, at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. Through the intercession of St. Mary, who said to Jesus “they have no wine”.



3- The Entrance of our Lord into the Temple

(Amshir 8, February 15)

Forty days after Christmas. When the time of her purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord as it is written in the Law, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord” and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with that is said in



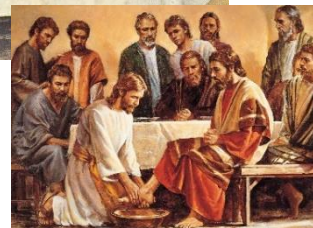
the Law of the Lord: A pair of doves or two young pigeons. This is when Simeon the Elder took Him in his arms and praised God, saying: *“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation”* Luke 2:22-32

This is the Thursday of the Holy week. In it we commemorate the establishment of the **Sacrament of Eucharist** by our Lord Jesus, when He offered His Body and Blood as the living Sacrifice, granting us eternal life.

On this day also an unusual procession takes place, starting from the south of the church nave, during which a hymn of rebuking Judas betrayal is chanted as a warning for us not to fall like him.

We also pray the water liturgy (**Lakan**), in which the priest washes the feet of his people commemorating what the Lord did for His disciples.

4-The Holy Thursday



During the Holy Thursday liturgy, we do not pray the prayer of Reconciliation or the Commemoration of the saints.

7 MINOR FEASTS OF THE LORD

5- Thomas Sunday

This is the Sunday that follows Easter.

Thomas, one of the twelve, was not with the disciples when they saw Jesus. When the disciples told him, *"We have seen the Lord"* he said, *"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails*



and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." After eight days Jesus appeared to His disciples and Thomas with them. He said to Thomas, *"Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving but believing."* And Thomas answered and said to Him, *"My Lord and my God!"* Jesus said to him, *"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* (John 20:24-29)

6-The Flight to Egypt

(Bashans 24, June 1)



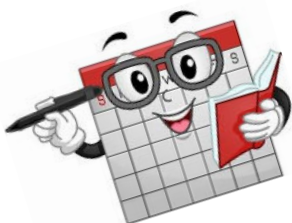
An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, *"Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."* When he awoke, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, *"Out of Egypt I called My Son."* (Hosea 11:1)

7- The Feast of the Transfiguration

(Misra 13, August 19)



On this feast Christ, revealed Himself in shining splendor to Peter, James, and John. Moses and Elijah were present, and it signifies that the Law and the Prophets testify that Jesus is the promised Messiah. God the Father also proclaimed Him as such, saying, *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (Matthew 3:17)



DID YOU NOTICE?

Some Feasts do not have a fixed date!

Palm Sunday - Holy Thursday - Easter
Ascension – Pentecost - Thomas Sunday

COPTIC ORTHODOX FEASTS- Cont.

OTHER CHURCH FEASTS



The Nayrouz Feast

The Coptic New Year
1st of Tout, (September 11)
The word "**Nayrouz**" is Persian,
meaning "the beginning of the year."
It is a feast when martyrs are
commemorated within the Coptic
Orthodox Church.



Two Feasts of the Cross

1- Tout 17, (September 27).

It commemorates the consecration of the Church of the Holy Cross and the appearance of the Honorable Cross to the righteous Emperor Constantine the Great.

2- Baramhat 10, (March 19)

It commemorates the discovery of the Holy Cross by Queen Helen the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great in 326 AD in Jerusalem.

The Monthly Feasts

In each Coptic month the church celebrates

1- The commemoration of the Annunciation, Nativity, and Resurrection of Christ on the **29th** (*except Touba and Amshir*).

2- The commemoration of St. Mary the Mother of God on the **21st**.

3- The Commemoration of Archangel Michael on the **12th**.



The Feasts of St. Mary

- ❖ The annunciation of her birth
- ❖ Her Nativity
- ❖ Her Presentation into the Temple
- ❖ Her Departure
- ❖ The Assumption of her body
- ❖ Her apparition in the Church of Zeitoon
- ❖ The dedication of the first church build in her name in the city of Philippi.



Feasts of the Saints

There is a feast almost every day, so that the believers may live in perpetual joy and in communion with the saints.

The Apostles' Feast

(Abib 5, July 12)

This is the feast of martyrdom of the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul. It is preceded by a fasting period which starts on the day following the Pentecost. In this feast, the liturgy of blessing the water takes place (**Lakan**).



How many Water liturgies (Lakan) do we pray each year?