



St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church
Pre-Service Training Seminars



Lecture 12:

*THE RITE OF THE
HOLY LITURGY (II)*

**“For God is not the author of
confusion, but of peace”**
(1 Corinthians 14:33)



Outline of The Coptic Holy Liturgy

- ❖ Besides the Psalmody and the Canonical Hours (the Agpeya), we have:
 - The Evening Offering of Incense
 - The Morning Offering of Incense
 - The Offertory
 - The Liturgy of the Catechumens
 - Pre-Anaphora
 - The Anaphora (The Liturgy of the Faithful)





1. The Evening & Morning Offering of Incense



- ❖ The preparation for meeting God and being united with Him begins the evening before the Liturgy. During the evening prayer we offer the Evening Offering of Incense.
- ❖ The following day we offer Morning Incense Prayers.
- ❖ Both services are similar, except for some minor changes.
- ❖ They consist of:



1. The Evening & Morning Offering of Incense

Offering of Incense

The Lord's Prayer

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Verses of the Cymbals أرباع الناقوس

The Litanies الاواشي

The Trisagion آجيوس

The Introduction to the Doxologies and the Doxologies الذوكصولوجيات

The Introduction to the Creed and the Creed قانون الايمان

The Litany of the Gospel and the Psalm & Gospel الانجيل

The Five Short Litanies الاواشي الصغار

Peace (أوشية السلام); Fathers of the Church (أوشية الاباء); The Place (أوشية الموضع);
Water, Plants and Fruits (أواشي فصول السنة); and Assemblies (أوشية الاجتماعات)

Conclusion: the hymn of the end of the service

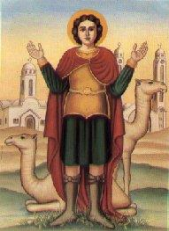




1. The Evening & Morning Offering of Incense



The Litanies **الاولاشي**



Vespers	Matins		
Week Days and Sundays	Week Days	Saturdays	Sundays and the Feasts of the Lord
The Departed	The Sick	The Departed	The Sick
	The Travelers		The Oblations



2. The Offertory

- ❖ The offertory of oblations (the bread and wine) is performed at the beginning of the liturgy.
- ❖ The offertory consists of:
 - Preparation: Putting on sacred vestments, Prayers of Preparation, Canonical Hours, and Hand washing.
 - Choosing the Lamb, i.e. the offering of the bread and wine
 - Procession of the Lamb around the altar.
 - Crossing the Offering.
 - Prayer of Thanksgiving.
 - The Absolution of Ministers.





3. The Liturgy of the Catechumens / Word

- ❖ The Catechumens in the early Church were those who underwent training and instruction preparatory to baptism.
- ❖ They were allowed to attend with the faithful until the end of this part.
- ❖ It includes the Lections (the readings), so that on hearing the word of God, the people would be prepared to receive the Holy Communion





3. The Liturgy of the Catechumens / Word

❖ This Liturgy consists of:

- Intercessions
- Daily Lections:
 - Pauline Epistle (Letters of St. Paul)
 - Catholic Epistle (Letters of Sts. James, Peter, John and Jude)
 - Praxis (Acts of the Apostles)
 - Synaxarium (Lives of the Saints)
 - Trisagion
 - Litany of the Gospel, the Psalm and the Gospel
 - Sermon
 - Three Long Litanies (Peace, Fathers and the Congregation)





4. Pre-Anaphora

- ❖ The whole Church is now prepared to ascend to heaven.
- ❖ She proclaims reconciliation between God and man.
- ❖ It consists of:
 - The Creed
 - The Prayer of Reconciliation
 - The Aspasmus (Holy Kiss). The apostolic kiss declares the reconciliation in a practical way.



5. The Anaphora (Liturgy of the Faithful)



- ❖ It is an entry to heaven.
- ❖ It consists of:
 - The Heavenly Hymn.
 - The Consecration, the most significant part of the Eucharist, which includes:
 - The Words of Institution, uttering the words of Christ Himself when He instituted the Eucharist.
 - The Epiclesis (Words of Invocation), the invocation for the descent of the Holy Spirit on the bread and wine to change them into the Body and Blood of Christ .
 - The Seven Short/Minor Litanies:
 - The Sacrifice now is present on the altar. Therefore the Church, the Holy body of Christ, prays for the peace of the Church, the Fathers and servants of the Church, the place where she lives, and the prosperity of the people in their spiritual and material life.



5. The Anaphora (Liturgy of the Faithful)

- The Commemoration of the Saints
 - The Eucharist is a divine mystery of the one Church, both visible and invisible. the saints who departed did not leave the Church because of death. We pray that God may remember them, and we also ask that their prayers may assist us. After the commemoration of Saints, the priest may mention the name or names of those who have departed, for the repose of their souls.
- Introduction to the Fraction
 - As a preparatory for the Fraction, the Church prays three prayers: to keep her in faith, to bring her into God's kingdom, and a thanksgiving prayer for the Eucharistic grace.
- The Fraction and Communion
- The Conclusion





5. The Anaphora (Liturgy of the Faithful)

– The Fraction and Communion

- After kneeling down to worship the Holy Body and Blood, the priest breaks the Body into twelve parts around the centre which is called despotikon which means "related to the Lord".
- This symbol of the Lord in the middle of the apostles is a revelation of the Church, the Body of Christ.
- During this time, he chooses a special prayer of Fraction that corresponds with the time of the year.
- Following the Fraction prayer, there are silent prayers, then comes the declaration of the Holies, the Confession and communion.
- During the communion the people sing Psalm 150 and other appropriate hymns.





5. The Anaphora (Liturgy of the Faithful)

- The Conclusion
 - The priest ends the Liturgy with Thanksgiving Prayer after communion. Then the people sing the hymn of the end of the service.

