

CHURCH STUDY

ST. MARY

MOTHER OF GOD THE THEOTOKOS

Theotokos

As a title for the Virgin Mary means "*Mother of God*" was recognized by the Orthodox church at the 3rd Ecumenical Council held at Ephesus in 431. It is from the Greek term theos 'god' and tokos 'bringing forth'



ID CARD

Name: Mary
Father's name: Joachim (descendant of King David)
Mother's name: Anna
Place of birth: Nazareth
Betrothed to: Joseph the Carpenter
Relatives : Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother
Tribe of Israel: Tribe of Judah
Son: Our Lord Jesus Christ
Place of Jesus' birth: Bethlehem
Departed: at the age of 60 years old
Burial: The Apostles buried her holy body, according to her wish, at the foot of the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane.
Her assumption: The Lord did not want to leave her body on earth, her body was taken to heaven

LIFE ON EARTH

The years of her life on earth were 60 years. She was 12 years old when she left the temple. She spent 34 years in Joseph's house, and 14 years with St. John the Evangelist, according to the commandment of the Lord which He told her at the cross, "Behold, this is your son," and to St. John "Behold this is your Mother".

ST. MARY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign :Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Emanuel." Isaiah 7:14

"The LORD rides on a swift cloud, And will come into Egypt"

Isaiah 19:1

SYMBOLS!



1- THE BEAUTIFUL DOVE

2- NOAH'S ARK



3- THE LADDER OF JACOB



4- THE CITY OF GOD



5- THE BURNING BUSH

6- AARON'S ROD



8- THE TABERNACLE OF MEETING (MOSES' DOME)

7- THE GOLDEN POT OF MANNA



9- THE GOLDEN CENSOR



10- THE TABLETS OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS



12- THE ARK OF COVENANT- THE MERCY SEAT

11- THE GATE OF EZEKIEL



13- THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND



AWESOME FACTS



Mary means “Sea of Bitterness” and “Wished for Child”

As Jesus is called the 2nd Adam, St. Mary is called the 2nd Eve

Jesus’ 1st miracle turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana of Galilee was through St. Mary’s intercession. St. Luke the Evangelist drew the picture of St. Mary



*Special message from
Archangel Gabriel,
“You will bear a Son
and shall name Him
Jesus”*



*The church
commemorates
St. Mary the
Mother of God
on the 21st of
each Coptic
Month*



*The feast of her miracle (the
dissolution of iron):*

On the 21st of Baouana. we commemorate her miracle in delivering St. Matthias the apostle and those who were with him from prison, by dissolving the iron which bounded them.



IN THE BIBLE

The Bible records many instances of St. Mary with Jesus Christ during His lifetime. When she and Joseph lost track of Him and found Jesus teaching people in a temple when He was 12 years old (Luke chapter 2).

When wine ran out at a wedding of Cana of Galilee, and she asked her Son to help out the host (John chapter 2).

Before Jesus Christ died on the cross He asked St. John to take care of St. Mary for the rest of her life. (John chapter 19).

In the Book of Acts 1:14 it is mentioned that St. Mary prayed along with the apostles and others.

The Introduction of the Creed

We exalt you, the **Mother of true Light**, We glorify you O saint, the **Theotokos** for you have brought forth unto us the Savior of the whole world He came and saved our souls

The Coptic church puts St. Mary above all ranks of angels, Archangels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim. There are multiple hymns and Theotokia for St. Mary in the Psalmody. She is mentioned in the Divine Liturgy and the Agpeya prayers



ST. MARY'S FEASTS IN THE SYNEXARIUM

Annunciation of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Joachim. 7 Misrah (August)



St. Joachim and his wife St. Anna had no children for Anna was barren. They prayed continually to God to have a child and vowed that the child would be made a servant in the house of the Lord

While St. Joachim was praying he fell into a deep sleep and God sent Archangel Gabriel to tell him of the birth of the Virgin.

When he woke from his sleep, he told his wife about the vision. She conceived and gave birth to this Saint and named her **Mary**.



The birth of St. Mary

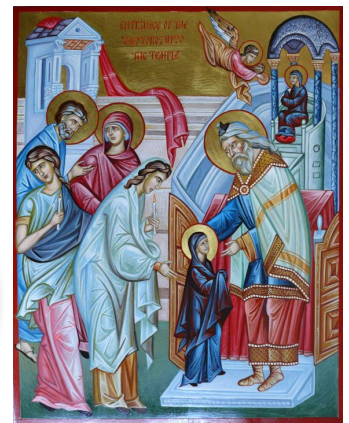
The Church celebrates the birth of St. Mary on the

1st of Bashans (May)

She was born in the city of Nazareth where her parents lived.

Entry into the temple - 3 Kiahk (December)

When she was 3 years old, her mother took her to live with the virgins in the Temple. St. Mary stayed in the sanctuary for 12 years. She received her food from the hands of the angels. When she could no longer stay in the temple, the priests decided to entrust her to someone who would protect her. They gathered 12 righteous men from the house of David so they might place her with one of them. They took their staffs inside the Sanctuary, and a dove flew up and stood on the staff belonging to Joseph the carpenter who was a righteous man. Joseph took St. Mary, and she dwelt with him.



The Holy Spirit informed her that she was about to depart from this world. When the time of her departure arrived, the virgins of the Mount of Olives came to her, with the apostles, and they surrounded her bed. The Lord Jesus Christ, with a host of thousands and thousands of angels came to her and comforted her and told her about the eternal joy that was prepared for her, and she rejoiced. The apostles and the virgins asked her to bless them. She stretched her hand and blessed them all, and she gave up her pure spirit in the hand of her Son and God.



Her Departure 21 Tobah (January)



The arrival of the Holy Family in Egypt 24 Bachans (June)



Commemoration of her Assumption 16 Misrah (August)



St. Thomas was absent at the time of St. Mary's departure, but he came after the burial. On his way back to Jerusalem, St. Thomas saw angels carrying St. Mary's pure body and ascending with it to heaven, and one of the angels said to him, "Hurry and kiss the pure body of St. Mary." When he arrived to the disciples, they informed him about St. Mary's departure. He told them, "I will not believe, unless I see her body. They took him to the tomb, to uncover the body but they did not find it, and they were surprised. St. Thomas told them what he saw.

The Holy Spirit then told them, "***The Lord did not will to leave her holy body on earth.***" The Lord had promised his pure apostles that they would see her in flesh another time. They were waiting for the fulfillment of this truthful promise, until the sixteenth day of the month of Misra, when the promise of seeing her was fulfilled. They saw her sitting on the right hand of her Son and her Lord, surrounded by the angelic Hosts.

When the two apostles Paul and Silas preached among the gentiles, many believed in the city of Philippi. They built a church there in the name of the Virgin, the Mother of God.

**On the 21st of Baounah (June) the church
celebrates the commemoration of the 1st church
to be built in the name of Virgin Mary
in the city of Philippi**



THE APPARITION OF ST. MARY IN ZEITOUN

April 2, 1968



During the papacy of Pope Kyrillos VI, 116th Pope of Alexandria, St. Mary started to transfigure in luminous spiritual forms in and around the domes of the church dedicated to her name in Zeitoun, in Cairo.



This transfiguration continued for the following nights in a manner that was never known in the East or the West. On some nights she appeared for many hours, without stopping, in front of tens of thousands of people from every race and religion. She was looking to them in a compassionate way, raising her hand at times to bless them in all directions.

The first one to notice this transfiguration was a workman at the garage of the Public Transit System which was across the street from the church. He saw a luminous body over the dome of the church. He started shouting:

“light over the dome”

and he called the other workers in the garage. They all came and saw the bright light over the large dome of the church. When they looked closely, they saw a young lady in white, kneeling by the cross at the top of the dome. they cried warning that person not to jump down and some of them called the police. The pedestrians, men and women started to gather around.

The view of the lady was getting more clear and she appeared as a beautiful girl in a bright gown of light and had branches of an olive tree in her hand, and around her flew white doves.

Then they realized that they were seeing a heavenly spiritual view. They started to shout and cry saying:

“She is the Virgin ... She is the Mother of Light”

They prayed with songs, hymns and hails all the night until the next morning.

May her intercession be with us all - Amen



This year marks the
50th anniversary of the
apparition of St. Mary in her
church in Zeitoun