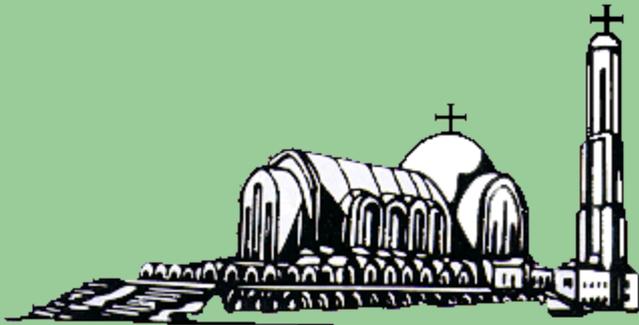




St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church
Pre-Service Training Seminars



Lecture 9:

*THE COPTIC FEASTS
AND FASTS*

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



The feasts of the Coptic Church



- ❖ Major Feasts of the Lord
- ❖ Minor Feasts of the Lord
- ❖ The Feasts of the Virgin Mary
- ❖ The Feasts of the Saints
- ❖ The Feasts of the Cross
- ❖ The Coptic Calendar





The major feasts of the Lord



7 Major Feasts	
Nativity	January 7 – Kiahk 29
Epiphany	January 19 - Tuba 11
Annunciation	April 7 - Paramhat 29 9 months pre Nativity
Palm Sunday	Sunday - 7 days before the feast of the Resurrection
Resurrection	Sunday - Calculated based on the Gregorian Calendar
Ascension	Thursday - 40 days after the feast of the Resurrection
Pentecost	Sunday - 50 days after the feast of the Resurrection



The minor feasts of the Lord



7 Minor Feasts	
Circumcision	January 14 - Tuba 6 7 days post Nativity
Wedding at Cana of Galilee	January 21 - Tuba 13 1 st miracle performed by our Lord Jesus Christ
Entrance into the Temple	February 15 - Amshir 8 40 days post Nativity
Entrance into Egypt	June 1 - Bashans 24
Transfiguration	August 19 - Mesra 13
Covenant (Maundy) Thursday	Thursday - Thursday of the Holy Week
Thomas' Sunday	Sunday - 7 days after the feast of the Resurrection



Summary of the Feasts of the Lord

DATE	FEAST	TYPE
January 7 – Kiahk 29	Nativity	Major
January 14 - Tuba 6	Circumcision	Minor (7 days post Nativity)
January 19 - Tuba 11	Epiphany	Major
January 21 - Tuba 13	Wedding at Cana of Galilee	Minor
February 15 - Amshir 8	Entrance into the Temple	Minor (40 days post Nativity)
April 7 - Paramhat 29	Annunciation	Major (9 months pre Nativity)
Sunday	Palm Sunday	Major (7 days before Resurrection)
Thursday	Covenant (Maundy) Thursday	Minor (Thursday of the Holy Week)
Sunday	Resurrection	Major (Calculated based on the Gregorian Calendar)
Sunday	Thomas' Sunday	Minor (7 days Resurrection)
Thursday	Ascension	Major (40 days after Resurrection)
Sunday	Pentecost	Major (50 days after Resurrection)
June 1 - Bashans 24	Entrance into Egypt	Minor
August 19 - Mesra 13	Transfiguration	Minor





The feasts of the Virgin Mary



St. Mary's Feasts	
Annunciation of her Birth	August 13 - Mesra 7
Her Nativity	May 9 - Bashans 1
Her Presentation into the Temple	December 12 - Kiahk 3
Her Repose	January 29 - Tuba 21
The annunciation of the Ascension of her body	August 22 - Mesra 16
Her apparition in Zeitoun	April 2 - Paramhat 24
Consecration of her 1st Church in Philippi	June 28 - Paona 21



The major fasts of the Coptic Church



Fast Start Dates	
Fast of Ninevah	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Two weeks pre Lent
Great Lent	Monday 55 days pre the Resurrection Feast
Apostles' Fast	Monday following the Pentecost Feast
St. Mary's Fast	August 7
Nativity Fast	November 25 (43 days pre the Nativity Feast)



The Feasts of the Saints

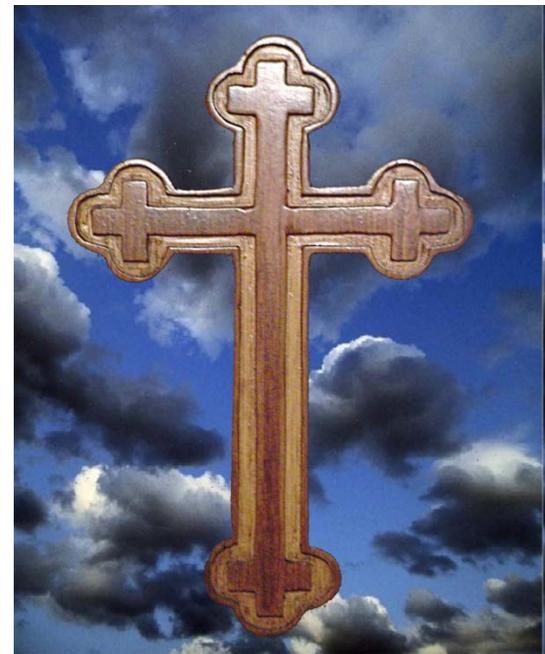
- ❖ Mainly to commemorate their departure, their martyrdom, or the consecration of Churches after their names.
- ❖ Reminds us of their virtues, lives and love of Christ.
- ❖ Reminds us to use them as role models and patron saints.
- ❖ Examples are St. Mina's feasts, St. George's feast, St. Abanoub's feasts, the martyrdom of the children of Jerusalem, etc.
- ❖ **Exercise:** Gather the names of the saints that we have their relics in our Church and look up their respective feasts.





The feasts of the Cross

- ❖ The Church celebrates two main feasts of the Cross:
 - On the 17th of Tout, (27th or 28th of September), the day of the apparition of the Cross to the Emperor Constantine, and
 - On the 10th of Baramhat (19th of March), the day when the Empress Helen found the wood of the Holy Cross.





The Coptic Calendar

- ❖ The Coptic calendar has 13 months
- ❖ 12 months of 30 days each and an intercalary month at the end of the year of 5 or 6 days depending whether the year is a leap year or not.
- ❖ The year starts on 11th of September in the Gregorian Calendar or on the 12th in the year before Gregorian Leap Years.
- ❖ The Coptic Leap Year follows the same rules as the Gregorian so that the extra month always has 6 days in the year before a Gregorian Leap Year.





The months of the Coptic Year



Coptic Month Name	Modern Pronunciation	Arabic Pronunciation	Start Date of the Month	Start Date on a Leap Year
Θωοῤῤ	Tout	توت	11-Sep	12-Sep
Παοπι	Baba	بابه	11-Oct	12-Oct
Δθορ	Hator	هاتور	10-Nov	11-Nov
Χοιακ	Kiahk	كيهك	10-Dec	11-Dec
Ἰωβι	Toba	طوبه	9-Jan	10-Jan
Μεσϣιρ	Amshir	أمشير	8-Feb	9-Feb
Παρεμχατ	Baramhat	برمهات	10-Mar	-
Φαρμοθι	Baramouda	برموده	9-Apr	-
Παϣανς	Bashans	بشنس	9-May	-
Παῶνι	Paona	بوونه	8-Jun	-
Ἐπιη	Eper	أبيب	8-Jul	-
Μεσωρη	Mesra	مسرى	7-Aug	-
Πικουχι ἢ ἄβοτ	Nasie	الشهر الصغير	6-Sep	-



The Coptic Calendar

- ❖ The Feast of Neyrouz marks the first day of the Coptic Calendar known as the Year of the Martyrs "ANO MARTYRUM, A.M."
- ❖ Its celebration falls on the 1st day of the month named Tut, the first month of the Coptic year, which usually coincides with the 11th day of September.
- ❖ The Coptic calendar, the oldest in history, originated three millennia before Christ. The exact date of its origin is unknown.
- ❖ It is believed that Imhotep, the supreme official of King Djoser C.2670 BC. had a great impact on the construction of the calendar.

