

The Feast of Christ's Entry into Egypt



- On Wednesday, June 1, our Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of the Lord's entry into Egypt fulfilling the prophecies of the prophets [Isaiah 19: 1, 19, 25](#) and [Hosea 11:1](#).
- The flight into Egypt is a biblical event described in ([Mt 2:13-23](#)), in which Joseph fled to Egypt with Saint Mary and infant son Jesus after a visit by the Magi because they learn that King Herod intends to kill the infants of in that region..
- Already, Egypt had hosted lots of prophets like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the tribes of the Israelites, Moses and Jeremiah, but the greatest blessing of all, was when the Lord Jesus fled to Egypt with His mother the Holy Virgin Mary and St. Joseph to take refuge in it.

The Word "Liturgy"

The word "Liturgy" in classic Greek means "a public service undertaken on behalf of the people," it comes from:

1. "Liaw," meaning "People."
2. "Ergia," meaning "work."

This word means "The service of the altar," or "The priestly service" ([Heb. 8:6; 9:21](#)).

The church used this term since the apostolic age, to cover all that worship which is officially organized by her, and which is offered by all her members, or on their behalf. In the course of time, this term has come to be mainly applied to the service of the Eucharist, although there are other liturgies as the liturgy of baptism, liturgy of marriage etc

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- The Apostles' Fast June 13 - July 11

- The Apostles' Feast (Martyrdom of St. Peter & St. Paul) July 12

Your Prayers & Donations are very much appreciated



The Ascension Feast

- This holy day is celebrated on the fortieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. The ascension of Christ into heaven is mentioned in the prophecies of the Scriptures. Christ Himself, upon His resurrection, said to Mary Magdalene: "I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God" ([John 20:17](#)).
- This great event, with which Jesus' life on earth concludes, is briefly mentioned in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. But in the Acts of the Apostles there is a fuller account.
- Gathering His disciples, Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, "**You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now ... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth**" ([Acts 1:5, 8](#))
- He went with His disciples to Bethany and stopped on the Mount of Olives. "Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'" ([Acts 1:9-11](#))
- In the Gospel of Mark, it is written that upon ascending to heaven, the Lord sat upon the right side of God the Father, that is, the human soul and body of Jesus Christ took on the same glory as His Divinity.
- The belief in the ascension of Jesus is found in the Nicene Creed, and is affirmed by Christian liturgy.

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The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.



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The Feast of Christ's Ascension:

On Thursday, June 2, Our Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Liturgy will be from 8:00-9:30 AM.

Pentecost & Sagda Prayers:

On Sunday, June 12, Our Coptic Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit rested on the Apostles as tongues of fire. It is considered the birthday of the Christian Church (Acts 2). The Sagda prayers will start from 1:30 – 3:00 PM.

Schedule of Other Church Services:

Please visit our websites:

fresnocopticchurch.org

fresnocopticchurch.net

Words of Wisdom:

- Satan subtracts and divides. God multiplies and multiplies.
- If you do not want to reap the fruits of sin, stay out of the devil's orchard.
- A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on.
- People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.

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Pentecost



- Pentecost: represents the birthday of the Christian Church. The Only-begotten Son paid the price for her salvation. He ascended to heaven to prepare a place for her. He sent His Holy Spirit in her, offering her existence, guidance, sanctification, and adornment as the Heavenly Bride.
- In this feast, the church chants joyful hymns in celebration of the resurrection, the ascension of Christ and the dwelling of His Holy Spirit in her, thus she connects the three feasts in one whole unity.
- On this day, the church conducts three sets of prayers, called “Kneeling” during which incense and prayers are offered on behalf of the sick, the travelers, the winds, and it gives special attention to the dormant, as a sign of her enjoying the communion and unity with Christ that challenges even death.

Symbols of the Holy Spirit (Biblical Study)

- 1- **The Dove:** In the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, we see the Holy Spirit descended as a dove upon Him. The dove refers to peace, purity and meekness. (Mt 3:16; Luke 3:22 and John 1:33)
- 2- **The Oil:** The oil stands for sanctification, consecration, dedication, ordination, healing, lighting and illumination. All these are the works of the Holy Spirit. Kings, priests and prophets were usually ordained and anointed with holy oil.
- 3- **The Seal:** The seal means that we have become God’s brand and possession; we belong to the Lord because He bought us with His precious blood. (Eph 4:30)
- 4- **The Winds:** As we read in (Acts 2:2). As the winds drive things, the Holy Spirit drives us.
- 5- **The Fire:** As we see in (Acts 2:3). As the fire burns anything the Holy Spirit burns our sins
- 6- **The Water:** Jesus said this fact in (John 7:37-38). As the water washes and cleans, so the Holy Spirit does. (Titus 3:5)

Around The Holy Family in Egypt

- On the Holy Family’s entry into the town of Basta, the idols fell down.
 - At Sammanud: There is a holy well, which the Holy Family might have drunk its water and some miracles happen by that blessed water of the well.
 - At Sakha: The foot of the Lord Jesus Christ was imprinted on a stone.
 - At Al-Matariya: The Holy Family sheltered under a tree known nowadays by the tree of the Virgin Mary. There the Lord Jesus gushed forth a spring of water from which He drank, and blessed it. Virgin Mary washed the clothes of the child Jesus and poured the water on the ground and sweet smelling plant grew (Named the balsam tree).
 - At Qusquam: The idol which the people used to worship fell down and was damaged.
 - The most important document from which we know the incidents that happened to the Holy Family during their stay in Egypt (beside other church resources) is the book of Pope Theophilus, the twenty third of the Alexandria Patriarchs (376-403). In his book, Pope Theophilus narrated a vision in which he saw on the sixth night of Hatour, after he had a long prayer asking the mediation of the Holy Virgin Mary. The Holy Virgin appeared to him and told him about the blessed journey which the Holy Family had made to Egypt and she asked him to register what he had seen and what she had told him.
- The Pope’s book is considered the most important document on which the church relies. There are only three manuscripts in Arabic of that book. One of them is kept at the library of the Vatican, the other is at the National library in Paris, and the third is at the library of EI-Muharraq monastery.
- According to the traditions of the Coptic Church: The altar of the Church of the Virgin Mary in Al-Muharraq monastery is the same site where the Holy Family settled for a period of more than six months. The altar-stone was the “bed” upon which the Infant Savior laid.
 - Al-Muharraq Monastery is located “in the midst of the land of Egypt” (Is 19:19)

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To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.

Tongues of Fire Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:3-4)

They partook of fire, not of burning but of saving fire; of fire which consumes the thorns of sins, but gives luster to the soul. This is now coming upon you also, and that to strip away and consume your sins which are like thorns, and to brighten yet more that precious possession of your souls, and to give you grace; for He gave it then to the Apostles. And He sat upon them in the form of fiery tongues, that they might crown themselves with new and spiritual diadems by fiery tongues upon their heads. A fiery sword barred of old the gates of Paradise; a fiery tongue which brought salvation restored the gift.”

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“Return to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.” (Ps 116:7)



The church offers its deep consolation to the family of the late **Dr. Moneer Mansour**. We ask God to repose his soul in the Paradise of joy and grant the family heavenly peace and comfort.

Days and years will never take you from our hearts. We miss your kind heart and your tender feelings for all. We miss your shining smile. We live by your guidance and example. Please continue to pray for us.