

November 2009
Hatour 1726
(Advent – Holy Nativity)

Hymns
Review

Rites of Kiahk Sundays Midnight Praises

- + Ten Theeno
- + The Kiahk Hos
- + Song of "Agios O Theos"
- + Psali Adam on 1st Hos
- + 1st Hos & Lobsh
- + Song Adam on the 1st Hos
- + Psali Adam on the 2nd Hos
- + 2nd Hos & Lobsh
- + Song on the 2nd Hos
- + Psali Adam on the 3rd Hos
- + 3rd Hos
- + Psali of the Three Young Men
- + Song Vatos for the Three Young Men
- + Hymn of "Tenen"
- + Hymn of "Ten Oweh Inswk"
- + Psali on Commemoration of Saints
- + Song Adam on Commemoration of Saints
- + The Commemoration of Saints
- + The Doxologies
- + Psali Adam on the 4th Hos
- + The 4th Hos
- + Psali Adam on the Sunday Theotokia
- + Song before the Sunday Psali (amwini)
- + The Sunday Psali
- + Song Adam on Sunday Psali "I open my..."
- + Ending of Psali-Hymn of "Loibon"
- + Sunday Theotokia
- (First 6 parts are said individually each one is followed by explanation & Gospel reading)
- + Hymn of "Shere ne Maria ..."
- + Hymn of "Cemoutee ..."
- + The 7th Explanation
- + Song Vatos on 8th part (Shere ne Maria)
- + The 8th part (Shashf encop ...)
- + Explanation of the 8th part
- + Song of "O M. A. R. Y"
- + The 9th part of the Theotokia (Avmoutee...)
- + Psali Adam on the 9th part (Tee oi en hi-kenos)
- + Song on the 9th part (Amdah fe elbatol)
- + Dephnar Reading
- + Psali Adam on the Theotokia ending
- + Song on the ending (Your mercies o my...)
- + The ending of the Adam Theotokia (Neknai oh Panoti)
- + The Creed and the Supplication

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Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
St. Mary and St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church
Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada



"For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 3:13)



The Glorious Feast of Nativity, December 25 or January 7?

The first Church celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in the spring season whilst the western churches celebrated it in winter.

In the middle of the 4th century, it was agreed by the Church all over the world to celebrate the Nativity on December 25th (Kiahk 29th in the Coptic Calendar). At that time, the civil calendar used all over the world "**the Julian Calendar**", considered the year to be 365.25 days and thus had a leap year every 4 years; just like Coptic Calendar. Therefore, until the sixteenth century, 25 December coincided with 29 Kiahk, as the date of the celebration of the Lord's nativity.

Towards the end of the 16th century, scientists noticed that the solar year (time the earth takes to revolve around the sun) was slightly shorter than the Julian year. It was 365.2422 solar days which makes a difference of 11 minutes and 14 seconds shorter than the Julian year, and thus a difference of a full day every 128.2 years, hence the difference of 10 days in the beginning of spring between the 4th and 16th centuries.

In A.D. 1582, Pope Gregory XIII of Rome, based on the scientific discovery, decreed the following:

- 1- October 5th will be called October 15th.
- 2- The Julian calendar should be shortened by 3 days every 400 years by making a normal 365-day year, not a leap year, except if its number is divisible by 400, will be 366-day. Thus the year 1600 remained a leap year as usual, while 1700, 1800 and 1900 had only 365 days each, and the year 2000 was a leap year of 366 days. This came to be known as "**the Gregorian Calendar**" which is the common civil calendar used nowadays.

Following these decrees, the Church of Rome celebrated Christmas on December 25th according to the Julian calendar, and the Eastern Church celebrated the feast of Nativity on January 4th based on Pope Gregory's new calendar.

That gap widened by 3 more days over the next 4 centuries from the 16th century to the 20th, Century. That's why we celebrate the Nativity Feast on January 7th of the civil Gregorian new calendar. And this will become January 8th after the year 2100 A.D.

Our Coptic Church is strong by keeping the faith passed on by our fathers from generation to generation, and that's why we base our celebrations according to a calendar established by our fathers of the ecumenical councils as the basis of our liturgical life.



Archangel Michael



+ Q: What is the preparation (spiritually, physically) for a deacon before serving or coming to church?

+ A: Deacon should do the following:

- 1- Repent for his sins and confess them to his father of confession.
- 2- Reconcile with anyone who he has something against.
- 3- Attend the Vespers prayers, pray the midnight prayers and participate in the midnight praises.
- 4- Go straight home after the church the night before the liturgy service.
- 5- Attend to his personal hygiene and clothing.
- 6- Prepare his vestments (Tunia) the night before, and make sure it's washed and ironed.
- 7- Fast or abstain from food and drink at least 9 hours before the start of the liturgy service.
- 8- Pray the Prime Prayer from the Agpeya upon awakening.
- 9- Pray psalms 26, 46 and 121 on the way to church.
- 10- Arrive at church at least 10 minutes before Matins prayers start.
- 11- Do the sign of the cross when entering the church

Church Events in the period from November 2009 to January 2010

NOVEMBER 2009							DECEMBER 2009							JANUARY 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
29	30											31								

Church Event	Gregorian Date	Coptic Date
The Holy Nativity Fast	November 25 to January 6, 2010	Hator 16, 1726 to Kiahk 28, 1726
The Month of Kiahk	December 10 to January 6, 2010	Hator 30, 1726 to Kiahk 28, 1726
Paramoune of the Nativity Feast	January 6, 2010	Kiahk 28, 1726
The Holy Nativity Feast	January 7, 2010	Kiahk 29, 1726
The Circumcision Feast	January 14, 2010	Toba 06, 1726
Paramoune of the Holy Epiphany Feast	January 18, 2010	Toba 10, 1726
The Holy Epiphany Feast	January 19, 2010	Toba 11, 1726
The feast of the Wedding of Cana of Galilee	January 21, 2010	Toba 13, 1726

The Tunes of prayers during the period from November 2009 to January

+ The Month of Kiahk (December 10 to January 6)

It has a special place in our Coptic Orthodox Church for its association with the Theotokos Saint Mary and the preparation for the glorious Feast of the Nativity. For this reason, the church arranged special hymns during this month and so the tune of the hymns chanted which is called the *Kiahk Tune*. The rite in this month is similar to the annual rite in terms of the order, with the exception of the hymns and responses chanted specifically for the month of Kiahk.

+ The Paramoun of the Nativity (January 06 / Kiahk 28) & The Paramoun of the Epiphany (January 18 / Toba 10)

They are prayed in *the annual tunes*. The prayers in the Paramoun differ in the Verses of Cymbals, Doxologies, Gospel Response, Fraction and finally the creed of the completion. [Paramoun: A Greek term meaning watch, vigil, especially on the eve of a festival. Its Arabic equivalent is generally used for the vigils of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of the Epiphany. It is a fast requiring complete abstention from eating meat, dairy products, fish and sea-foods. If the day before the feast happens to be Saturday or Sunday, then the Paramoun begins on Friday because it is not permitted to fast on Saturday or Sunday; therefore the Paramoun can be two days or three days respectively, otherwise it's one day.]

+ From the glorious Feast of the Nativity (January 07 / Kiahk 29) to the Feast of the Circumcision (January 14 / Toba 06), the prayers are in *joyful tune*.

+ From (January 15 / Toba 7) to (January 18 / Toba 10) the prayers are in *annual tune*.

+ From the Feast of the Epiphany (January 19 / Toba 11) to the Feast of Cana of Galilee (January 21 / Toba 13), the prayers are in *joyful tune*.

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Upcoming Events

+ The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ ... (January 07 / Kiahk 29)

The Feast of Nativity is one of the Seven Major Feasts of our Lord; On this day, of the year 551 of the world, as calculated by our glorious church, we celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Incarnate God in the Flesh from the virgin St. Mary.

+ The Commemoration of the Circumcision of the Lord Christ ... (January 14 / Toba 06)

The Feast of Circumcision is one of the Seven Minor Feasts of our Lord; On this day, the church celebrates the commemoration of the circumcision of the Lord Christ, to Whom is the glory. God had ordained the law of circumcision as a sign that His people would become a particular people over all others. This was that every male of the seed of Abraham be circumcised on the eighth day of his birth.

He also gave us the sign of the new covenant through baptism, as St. Paul says, "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead." (Colossians 2:11-12)

+ The Holy Theophany of Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ ... (January 19 / Toba 11)

The Feast of the Epiphany is one of the Seven Major Feasts of our Lord, On this day of the year 31 A.D., our Master, Lord and God, Jesus Christ, was baptized at the hands of St. John the Baptizer (the dyer). The feast is called in Greek the Feast of Theophany or the Feast of the Revelation of the Divine Nature of the Lord, for the Holy Trinity was revealed.

+ The Commemoration of the Miracle at Cana of Galilee ... (January 21 / Toba 13)

The Feast of the Wedding of Cana of Galilee is one of the Seven Minor Feasts of our Lord; On this day, the church celebrates the commemoration of the miracle that our Lord Jesus Christ performed at Cana of Galilee. It was the first miracle that our Lord Jesus performed after His baptism. This was the beginning of the signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory and His disciples believed in Him. (John 2:1-11)



St. Mina

the wonder worker



+ Upon entering the church, walk quietly towards the sanctuary while saying "But as for me, ..."

Psalm 5:7.

+ Bow before the sanctuary three times while saying: " I worship you O Christ with your good Father and the Holy Spirit for You have come and saved us".

News in Pictures



Deacons meetings were held on October 3rd and November 7th, 2009 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at the church where Fr. Abraam started new sessions for the deacons to learn the rite of the Divine Liturgy and practice it inside the altar. The meetings will continue to be held on the 1st Saturday of every month and all deacons and congregation are urged to attend.



On November 14th of 2009, H.H. Pope Shenouda III ordained Father Youssef Iskander as priest to our beloved church. We ask our Lord Jesus Christ to bless him, his family, his service and his ministry to bring glory to God and joy to all of us.

ST. MARY AND ST. JOSEPH COPTIC
ORTHODOX CHURCH
RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO CANADA

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Deacons' News



On September 19th of 2009, the Coptic & Hymns Classes for the new year have started.

Biography



St. Athanasius the Apostolic the 20th Pope of Alexandria

The seventh day of the blessed month of Bashans marks the departure of St. Athanasius the Apostolic the 20th Pope of Alexandria. On this day of the year 89 A.M. (373 A.D.) the great Pope Anba Athanasius the apostolic departed.

+ His Childhood

He was born to pagan parents about the year 295 - 298 A.D. It happened that when he was in school, he saw some Christian children acting the Christian rituals some as priests, some as deacons and one of them as a bishop. He asked their permission to participate with them, but they refused saying: "You are pagan, and you are not allowed to mix with us" He answered them: "I am from now on a Christian" They rejoiced with him, they made him a patriarch over them in the play, they enthroned him on a high place, and they offered him honor and respect. At that time pope Alexandros passed by, when he saw them, he said to those who were with him about Athanasius: "This child would be in a great position one day"

+ Learning with Faith

When Athanasius' father died, his mother brought him to Pope Alexandros, who taught them the principles of the Christian faith and baptized them. They gave their money to the poor, and stayed with the Pope, who taught Athanasius the church subjects, and ordained him deacon and made him his personal secretary. The gifts of the Holy Spirit increased in him. He was chosen Patriarch on the 8th of Bashans of the year 44 A.M. (May 5th 328 A.D.) after the departure of Pope Alexandros.

+ Defending the Faith and becoming the 20th Pope of Alexandria

Pope Alexandros had recommended Athanasius, his deacon, for the Papacy, who lived with St. Antonios the father of the monks and followed his example in asceticism. He manifested his brilliancy in exposing "Arius" in the universal council, when Arius said about Christ that he was "similar" in essence with the Father, St. Athanasius said: "One in essence with the Father" In this fashion he manifested his excellence.

St. Athanasius hid himself in the mountains, after the departure of Pope Alexandros for he believed of his unworthiness to this serious and important position. The people looked for him until they found him, and brought him to the bishops, and he was ordained Pope in 328 A.D.

The historian Socrates testified about him saying: "Athanasius fluency in speech and his outspokenness in the council of Nicea brought over him all the hardships that he encountered in his life"

After he became a Pope, he ordained for Ethiopia its first Metropolitan whose name was Anba "Salama". The church of Ethiopia has followed the church of Alexandria since that time. The spiritual and religious state in Ethiopia had established and settled since that time. St. Athanasius was exiled away from his Chair five times.

+ His Departure

Although Athanasius reached the age of 72, he did not compromise in performing his duties. For his steadfastness and his firm stand for justice, the world described him by the saying: "Athanasius against the world"

He wrote several books about the Arians, on the Incarnation, and other subjects. Abba Cosma (The 44th Patriarch) praised these publications by saying: "I ask anyone who would find the books of Athanasius to write them on paper, and for those who could not find paper, to write them on their clothes"

Athanasius was the first Pope to wear the monastic tunic from the hand of St. Antonios. He made it the uniform for bishops and patriarchs. He was the one who ordained St. Antonios a priest and then Arch-priest. He departed in peace after he had been on the Apostolic Throne for forty five years.

May His prayers be with us and Glory be to our God forever. Amen.