

September 2009

Tout 1726

(Nayrouz – Coptic New Year)

**Hymns
Review**

On September 10th of 2009, the church celebrated the arrival of the Relics of: St. George, Martyrs of Fayoum, Martyrs of Ansena, and Children of Abba Thomas the Anchorite. For this blessed occasion, please review the following hymns:

For Glorification: (Axios)3

+ Ni Martyros ente Ephiom.

+ Ni Martyros ente Ansena.

+ Ni Mathetees ente ava Thomas.

For Hiten:

Hiten ni evshi : ente nen yoti ethowab en zikeous :

+ Ni Martyros ente Ephiom, or

+ Ni Martyros ente Ansena, or

+ Ni Mathetees ente ava Thomas

Epchois : Ari ehmot nan empi ko evol ente nen novi.

For Gospel Response:

Tovh em epchois ei-ehrei egon : ni ethowab enzekeous :

+ Ni Martyros ente Ephiom, or

+ Ni Martyros ente Ansena, or

+ Ni Mathetees ente ava Thomas

Entef ka nen novi nan evol.

For Verses of Cymbals:

Ounito khen oh methmee : nen youti ethowab en-zikeous :

+ Ni Martyros ente Ephiom, or

+ Ni Martyros ente Ansena, or

+ Ni Mathetees ente ava Thomas :

Ni Menrati ente Piekhrestos.

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

ΔΙΑΚΩΝ



“ 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)

Opening Statement by Father Abraam Kamal

Dear Deacons,

I would like to congratulate you for the first issue of Deacon’s Newsletter “**ΔΙΑΚΩΝ**”. May God use this publication for the glory of His name.

I would like to encourage everyone to read and meditate in *Psalm 145*. This psalm communicates a message which is very important for each deacon. This message is that God deserves our unconditional commitment to praise Him (vv. 1-2). David praises God for His goodness and His provisions. But he also makes it clear that we must walk in reckless abandon to the ways of God.

Once we make a commitment, they find that God provides the people, resources, and strategy necessary to fulfill their needs. In one sense, God enters a partnership with His people and promises to fulfill His role as we fulfill ours:

God’s Role: Provision (vv. 8-17)

1. He is gracious and merciful.
2. His acts are mighty.
3. His kingdom is everlasting.
4. His dominion endures through all generations.
5. He satisfies our desires.
6. He is righteous and kind in all His ways.

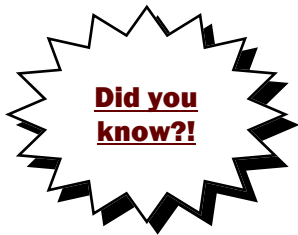
Our Role: Commitment (vv. 18-20)

1. To those who call upon Him.
2. To those who fear Him.
3. To those who love Him.

I pray that God may bless you and your service.



St. Joseph



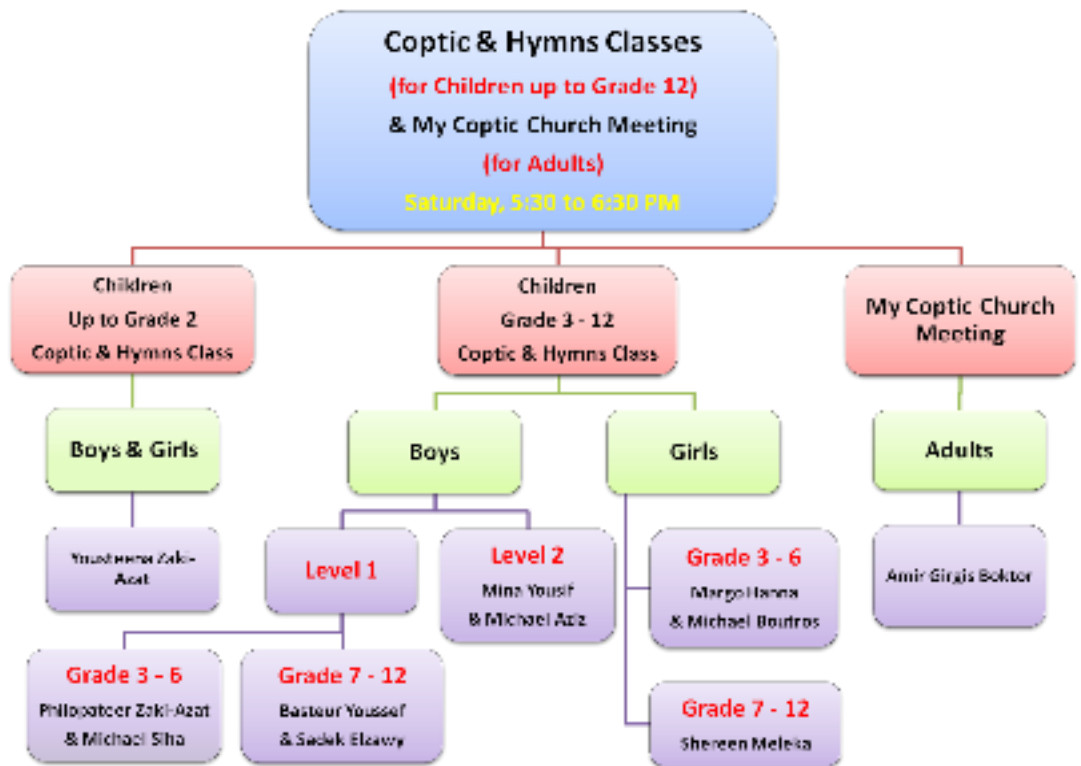
+ Entering and exiting the sanctuary should be through the side entrances except while responding to the Litany for the Gospel and the Processions of the Feasts.

+ There are five ranks of deacons. In ascending order, they are:

- Psaltos (Hymnist)
- Anaghnostos (Reader)
- Epi-Diakon (subdeacon)
- Diakon (full deacon)
- Archi-Diakon (Archdeacon, leader of deacons)

“Coptic & Hymns Classes – for Children” & “My Coptic Church Meeting – for Adults”

	Class / Location	Day	From	To	Instructor
Up to Gr. 2	Up to Grade 2 (Boys & Girls) Crying Room	Saturday	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Yousteena Zaki-Azat
Gr. 3 to 12 Girls	Grades 3 - 6 (Girls) Nave; Towards Crying Room	Saturday	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Margo Hanna & Michael Boutros
	Grades 7 - 12 (Girls) Library; after G for J Class	Saturday	6:00 PM	6:30 PM	Shereen Meleka
Gr. 3 to 12 Boys	Deacons - Level 1 / Grades 3-6 (Boys) Baptism Room	Saturday	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Philopateer Zaki-Azat & Michael Siha
	Deacons - Level 1 / Grades 7-12 (Boys) Nave; Towards Baptism Room	Saturday	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Basteur Youssef & Sadek Elzawy
	Deacons - Level 2 (Boys) Altar; Ladies Side	Saturday	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Mina Yousif & Michael Aziz
Adult	My Coptic Church Meeting (Adults) St. Paul's Chapel in the basement	Saturday	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Amir Girgis Boktor



Website: www.smsj.ca Link to Deacons Corner: http://www.smsj.ca/fixed_page.asp?id=5
 From “Quick Links” on the left side of homepage, select “Group Pages” and then “Deacons Corner”

Upcoming Events

+ The Feast of Nayrouz (New Coptic Year)

The word "Nayrouz" is Persian, meaning "the beginning of the year" The Egyptian calendar goes back to 4240 B.C. Copts restored the calendar with the beginning of Diocletian's reign of the Roman Empire in AD 284, to commemorate the millions of Coptic martyrs.

From El-Nayrouz feast (The beginning of the Coptic Year, Tout I, c. September 11) to the feast of the Cross (Tout 17, c. September 27): The readings of this period concentrate on joy, chanting hymns and the constant renewal; the first verse that is read in the eve of El-Nayrouz is: "Sing to the Lord a new song." And in the psalm of the Liturgy, "Bless the Crown of the Year with Your goodness."

The analogy between the Feast of Martyrs (El-Nayrouz) and the Feast of the Cross, using a joyful (Farayhi) tone throughout this period, confirms the joyful life of the suffering church, for she joyfully bears the cross together with her Heavenly Groom.

+ The Feasts of the Cross:

The first feast is on Tout 17, (c. September 27). It commemorates the dedication of the Church of the Holy Cross which was built by Queen Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine.

The second feast is on Barmahat 10 (c. March 19) and commemorates the discovery of the Holy Cross on the hands of the same empress in A.D 326.

During these two feasts the church conducts a procession similar to that of Palm-Sunday and uses the same tone in chanting (Sha'neen like Hosanna), to announce that the cause of her joy with the Cross is the openness of the hearts (the inner Jerusalem) to receive the Savior as the King who reigns within us.

News in Pictures



On August 2nd of 2009, H.E. Bishop Youssef ordained Pierre Yousef and Christopher Nicola as Psaltos (Hymnist), and Andrew Tadros, Tony Abdel Missih and Bassem Iskandar as Anaghnostos (Reader).



On September 10th of 2009, the church celebrated the arrival of the Relics of: St. George, Martyrs of Fayoum, Martyrs of Ansena, and Children of Abba Thomas the Anchorite.



St. George



+ The deacon should pray the psalms on his way to the church:

- Psalm 26
(The Lord is my light ...),
- Psalm 46
(Clap your hands, all you nations ...)
- Psalm 121
(I was glad for those who said to me ...)

And while putting on his vestments he should recite Psalms:

- Psalm 29
(I will exalt you ...)
- Psalm 92
(The Lord has reigned ...)

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

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Go to "Group Pages",
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E-mail us at: deacon@smsj.ca

Deacons' News

+ Deacons Meeting was held on Sunday, Aug 30, 2009. Minutes of meeting were posted on the church website, deacons corner. A deacon form was requested to be filled out and submitted in order to update deacons' records and deacons group's mailing list.

+ Children (Grades 3 to 12 boys) had their test on Friday, Sep 11 in order to be distributed on Coptic & Hymns Classes based on their knowledge of Hymns, Rites and Coptic Language. The test covered the Altar deacon responses, Divine Liturgy rites, Coptic Alphabet and Grammar.

+ Coptic & Hymns Classes for Children up to Grade 12 (Boys & Girls) will commence on Saturday, Sep 19, 2009 (from 5:30 to 6:30 PM); A new system of teaching the children using a curriculum will be applied.

+ My Coptic Church meeting is held every Saturday for Adults to present the heritage of The Coptic Orthodox Church (Hymns, Praises, Rites, Coptic Language, ... etc.)

Biography



St. Stephen, The Archdeacon and Protomartyr

The first day of the blessed month of Tobah marks the martyrdom of St. Stephen, the Archdeacon and the first martyr (protomartyr). St. Luke testified about him in the Acts of the Apostles saying, "Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.." (Acts 6:8) The Jews envied him and seized him and brought him to the Council. They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us." (Acts 6:12-13) And all who sat in the Council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel. (Acts 6:13)

Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?" St. Stephen answered with convincing words and told them the history from Abraham to Moses. The coming out of Abraham from Haran, the birth and the circumcision of Isaac, Jacob and his sons and their selling of Joseph, and how Joseph revealed himself to his brothers. St. Stephen continued to narrate to them all the events until the building of the temple. He concluded by saying, "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of Whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers; who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." (Acts 7:51-53)

When they heard these things they were cut to their hearts, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran toward him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him.

They stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus receive my Spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he said this, he fell asleep. (Acts 7:51-60) Devout men carried St. Stephen to his burial and made great lamentation over him.

His prayers be with us and Glory be to Our God, forever. Amen.