

Features of the Coptic Church

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Objectives

- 1- The reference that the church of Alexandria relies upon in its doctrine and curriculum.
- 2- The summary of the doctrine.
- 3- The curriculum of the church of Alexandria
- 4- The Main features of Worship in the church
- 5- The sacraments of the church
- 6- Orders in the orthodox church
- 7- Shapes that the church get to be build on and why?
- 8- Coptic art and music

The reference that the church of Alexandria relies upon in its doctrine and curriculum.

- The church of Alexandria is the church chosen by God from the beginning of salvation.
- The church of Alexandria is a steady church, meaning it does not change.
- It is an Evangelistic church
- The church based its belief on the bible
- It is a traditional church (Verbal teachings)

Read (2 Thessalonians 2: 13-17)



Continued

- The church of Alexandria depends on the bible
- It depends on the bible with its Both Testaments.
- The church believe that the bible is written by people directed by the holy spirit.
- Not a philosophical or scientific book

Theological School Of Alexandria

- It was somewhat established in the first century by St. Mark
- The theological school of Alexandria Became famous in the 2nd Century
- The theological teachings depend on the bible and explained it as a whole.
- Not focusing on one verse and leaving others.



The Summary of the Doctrine

- God is one with no partner
- God has three Hypostases; What are they ?
- The church believes that Jesus christ the person has one nature as existing in the unity of His divinity and Humanity without mixing or changing or separation for one moment or a blink of an eye.

Continued

- The Holy Spirit comes forth from the Father only.
- “But the helper the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in My name will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)



St. Mary and the saints in our church



- Saint Mary is a great saint above all the heavenly powers and saints because the Logos was born from her through the Holy Spirit. After her death, her body ascended to heaven and the disciples saw that
- The church believes in the intercession of the Virgin Mary, all martyrs, saints and angels

The curriculum of the church of Alexandria

- The church is teaching us to worship by lifting the heart towards heaven without ignoring human reality and daily life.
- The church Job is to lead the world towards peace, heaven and eternity.
- The church didn't stand against those who personally produced the heresies but against the heresies themselves.

The Main Features of Worship in the of Alexandria

- A Church filled with prayers
- Church prayers (Liturgy, vespers, tasbeha, ----)
- Individual/ family prayers using Agpeya
- Who can tell us what is the book of Agpeya?
- Praying the Agpeya is necessary to avoid soul mortification
- Prayer is the backbone of everyone's spiritual life

THE AGPEYA

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THE COPTIC
BOOK OF HOURS

An Ascetic church



- Monasticism was founded in Egypt by St. Anthony in the third century.
 - Does anyone know how God called him to become a monk ?
- “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven; and come, follow Me.” (Matthew 19:21).

Church of Fasting



- The Church believes that fasting raises the spirit without any hindrance and bodily demands.
- Fasting and prayers are fortified power overcoming the evil one who keeps tempting us continuously.
- There are many fasting occasions at the church: Advent, Great lent, the fast of the Apostles, the fast of virgin Mary, the fast of Wednesday and Friday.
- About 210 days !!!

Church that Celebrates and Honour Feasts

Seven major feasts



Seven Minor Feasts:

Circumcision
into the temple

The Lord's entrance

The Wedding of Cana of Galilee The Lord's entrance into Egypt

The Transfiguration

Maundy Thursday

Thomas Sunday

Other Feasts

- The feast of saints
- The commemoration of Angel Michael on the 12th of every coptic month.
- The commemoration of St. Mary on the 21st of every coptic month.
- The two feast of the cross
- The coptic New year (Nayrouz)



A Church of Sacrament

- The sacrament is a heavenly blessing, above any conception, which is unseen and it is given through the Holy Spirit during prayers.
- Only Priest can perform the Sacrament according to certain rituals

Seven Sacrament of the church

SACRAMENTS

- The Orthodox Church celebrates seven sacraments:



- 1) Baptism
- 2) Chrismation (Confirmation)
- 3) Holy Communion
- 4) Confession
- 5) Marriage
- 6) Ordination
- 7) Holy Unction (Anointing of the Sick)



Coptic Language

Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ζ	Η	
a	b v	g	d	e	s	dz	e t
alpha	bida	gamma	daida	ei	so	zita	ita
Θ	Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ	Ν	Ξ	Ο
th	i	k	l	m	n	ks	o
thita	jauta	kapa	laula	mi	ni	ksi	o
Π	Ρ	Σ	Τ	Υ	Φ	Χ	Ψ
p	r	s	t	u	ph	kh	ps
pi	ro	sima	tau	he	phi	khi	psi
Ω	Ϟ	ϙ	Ϛ	ϛ	Ϝ	ϝ	Ϟ
ō ū	š	f	x	h	dž	tš	ti
au	šei	fei	khei	hori	džaudžia	tšima	ti

- It's an extension and development of the old Egyptian language.
- The Copts used the Greek alphabet and 7 characters from the old Egyptian Language.
- Some of the theological words that is found in Greek and coptic can't be translated into other language.

The Church Shapes

- The church building is confirmed according to certain shapes

Circle: This design refers to the eternal nature of the Church as being an endless line. This type is very common in the Coptic architecture.

Ship: The most commonly used shape in the Coptic Orthodox Church. This is symbolic of Noah's ark as those in Noah's ark were saved from the flood, likewise the Church of God alone has the ability to save men.

Cross: This type gives an idea of the mystical nature of the Church, as being the crucified Body of Christ. The Coptic Orthodox Church is built in shape but rarely.



Coptic Arts/ Music



- The origin of the Art is the Pharaohs art as it's known for its richness and glamour.
- Coptic music follows the art as it's an extension to the old Egyptian music and depends primarily on vocal music.
- This is the reason you don't find musical instrument in the orthodox church.



Summary

MAIN FEATURES OF THE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA

