



# St. Mary In the Coptic Church

Servants Prep Class, March 2023



# St. Mary in the Coptic Church

- The Virgin Mary is the Mother of God
- Our Church cherishes the name of the Virgin Mary the Mother of God.
- This name is taken from the Holy Bible and not from human thinking or ideas.
- It is a Divine declaration.



## In Our Coptic Church

### We Do

- We Exalt Her
- We Glorify Her
- We Honor Her
- We Love Her
- We Ask for Her Intercession

### We Don't

We Don't Worship Her, We Worship Her Son, Our God and Savior



# St. Mary

## Among

## Christian Denominations

St. Mary to each Denomination	Orthodox	Catholic	Protestant
"Mother of God" (Theotokos)	✓	✓	✓
The Ever-Virgin Mary	✓	✓	✓
Mentioned in Church Prayers	✓	✓	✗
Glorified in the Church Dogma	✓	✓	✗
Intercession (other Saints too)	✓	✓	✗
Born without the Original Sin (Immaculate Conception)	✗	✓	✗



# **Titles and Symbols of St. Mary**

- 1. The Theotokos**
- 2. The Second Heaven**
- 3. Mother of the True Light**
- 4. The Golden Censor**
- 5. The Burning Bush**
- 6. Aarons Rod**
- 7. The Ever-Virgin**
- 8. Jacobs Ladder**
- 9. The Manna Pot**
- 10. The Ark of the Covenant**





# The Mother of God (Theotokos)

- **A: Theotokos derives from the Greek terms: Theos / 'God'; and tiktein / 'to give birth'.**
- **Mary is the Theotokos, the one who gave birth to God.**
- **This single word sums up the meaning of Luke's phrase: 'Mother of the Lord' (Lk 1:43) And represents a counterpoint to John's teaching that the 'Word was made flesh' (Jn 1:14).**



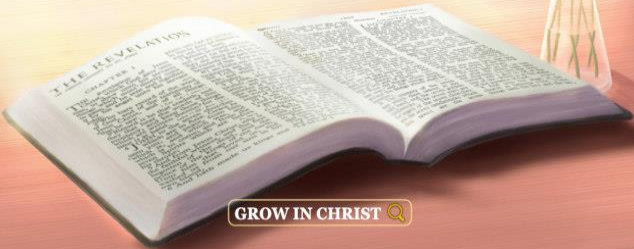
# The Second Heaven)

- **The Heaven is the throne of God**
- **St. Mary carried God inside her and that's why she is called the "Second Heaven"**

That was the  
**True Light,**

which lights every  
man that comes into  
the world.

John 1:9



- **Jesus is the True Light (John 1:9)**
- **St. Mary is the Mother of Jesus,  
Mother of the True Light**

**Mother of  
the True  
Light**





# The Golden Sensor

- The golden censer (Heb. 9: 4) used by Aaron, the high priest, **is a symbol of Virgin Mary who carried in her womb the Incarnate Word**
- *Our God is a consuming fire*“(Heb. 12: 29). She carried the fire of Divinity in her womb.



# The Burning Bush

- just as the bush was burning without being consumed, the Virgin gave birth to Christ while remaining a virgin.
- We say in the song: “The bush which the prophet Moses saw in the desert is the symbol of the mother of Light, blessed be she.
- She has carried the fire of divinity in her womb, without being touched by any harm”.
- It was said of the Lord that He is “a consuming fire” (Heb 12:29) to which the fire which is burning inside the bush, is a symbol, and the bush symbolizes The Virgin.



# Aaron's Rod

- As Aaron's rod that budded
- This description is mentioned in the Midnight Psalmody of the Sunday Theotokia.
- St. Mary miraculously sprouted and carried the buds of life,(Num.17:6 -8); although a rod has of course no life in it that can produce blossoms and yield fruit.
- This symbolizes the virginity of The Virgin who could not sprout or produce posterity; but she gave birth through a miracle.



# The Ever Virgin

- St. Mary gave birth to Jesus while she is a virgin
- Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son. They shall call his name Immanuel (Matthew 1:23)
- Some of the traditional stories of the church that tell us when the Virgin Mary entered the temple after giving birth to the Lord, she stood in the rows of the virgins and when they tried to prevent her from that, Zakariah the priest told them to leave her there in the row of virgins.



# Jacob's Ladder

- That ladder which “was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven” (Gen. 28:12).
- That is the symbol of The Virgin who, by her giving birth to Christ, made the inhabitants of the earth reach to heaven.





# The Manna Pot

- **The Manna Pot had the Manna that God sent to his people in the**
- **St. Mary Gave birth to the True Manna that descended from Heaven and she is the new Manna Pot**





# The Ark of the Covenant

- This ark was made of acacia wood that cannot decay and was covered with gold from inside and outside (Ex. 25:10, 22), as a symbol of the purity and the greatness of The Virgin.
- It also symbolized the things which were inside the ark that were a symbol of the Christ our Lord.
- There was kept “the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant” (as a symbol of the incarnated Word of God).



**"Rejoice, highly favored one,  
the Lord is with you;  
blessed are you  
among women!"**



# Characters of St. Mary



**Humbleness**



**Tolerance**



**Self  
Denial**



**Serving  
Others**



**Faithfulness**

The humble person thanks, praises, and magnifies the Lord

for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed (Luke 1:48)

**Tolerance**  
Endurance of Glory is much harder than enduring pain!

**Self Denial**  
When Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple teaching she said your father and I have been anxiously looking for YOU (Luke 2:48)

**Serving Others**  
After the annunciation she went to Elizabeth to serve her!  
Wedding of Cana, they have no wine!

**Faithfulness**  
When she heard the annunciation she did not question or have any doubts  
(Look at Sarah's reaction)  
(Gen 12:18)

# St. Mary in the Church Prayer

- In the Agpeya
  - In the Litanies of each prayer
- In the Liturgy
  - C
- The Month of Kiahk
  - We praise her and magnify her the whole month of Kiahk

# References

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