

Archangel



Raphael

Archangel Raphael was sent by the Lord to heal Tobit of his blindness. He also took care of Tobit's son, Tobias. He walked with Tobias to the village to meet his future wife, Sarah. Sarah needed to be rescued from a demon who killed everybody who had come near her. This evil demon killed every man she married on their wedding night. While they walked, Tobias and Raphael caught a fish. Raphael told Tobias to catch a fish and use the gallbladder to heal Tobit's eyes. Raphael also told Tobias how to protect himself from the demon. When the time came, Tobias made a little fire and burned the heart and liver of the fish, which was successful in driving the demon away.

Service Vessels

The service vessels are used in the Divine Liturgy. They are sanctified for the services by the Bishop or the Pope's prayer (1 Timothy 4:5) and the Holy Myron oil. The Church recognized the need to sanctify them as the Lord ordered Moses to sanctify the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the Table, the Sacrifice Altar, the Vessels, and all Priests' clothes to be holy for the ritual services and everyone who touched them became holy and sanctified for the services (Exodus 30:29 & Leviticus 8:30).

Faith



The Throne (Ark)

In the middle of the altar, there is a wooden box, called the Throne. It is where the chalice sits. It is called the Throne because the Blood of Christ sits in it. It is called the Ark because the life-giving Blood, is represented by the pot of Manna which was in the Ark of covenant and was a symbol of the true Body of Christ.

St. Abaskhiron El-Kelleny



St. Abaskhiron was born in the city of Kellen and became one of the soldiers of the governor Arianus.

When the order to worship idols was issued by Diocletian, St. Abaskhiron exposed the emperor and cursed his idols.

They locked him up in a prison and seized him in a palace located in the city of Asyut in upper Egypt. St. Abaskhiron and five other soldiers agreed to shed their blood in the name of Christ. The soldiers came before the Governor and were tortured, crucified, and their heads were cut off.

St. Abaskhiron was tortured in different ways but the Lord healed him and strengthened him through all the tortures. The governor brought a sorcerer named Alexander to poison the Saint. St. Abaskhiron prayed and made the sign of the cross and proceeded to drink the poison. After no harm came to the Saint, the sorcerer was shocked and believed in God and his miracles. The Governor cut off the sorcerer's head and he received the crown of martyrdom.

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The Dome (Star)



- ❖ *Made of two arches that cross together and form the shape of a cross.*
- ❖ *This dome is put on the paten representing the Lord's grave or manger.*
- ❖ *On top of it is a cross referring to the sheltering cherubim, or the star on top of Jesus's manger.*
- ❖ *Represents the star that appeared to the wisemen and stopped above the house where Jesus lay*





St Anthony

St. Anthony was born to Christian parents around the year 250 A.D. His father passed away at a young age and left many riches in the saint's inheritance. One day, while attending church services, he heard one of the deacons reading from the Holy Bible. "If you want to be 'perfect', go sell all you have, give to the poor and come follow me" (Matthew 19:21). St. Anthony considered every word he heard as directed to him personally. He sold about 300 acres of fertile land, gave most of the money to the poor, keeping only a little for his sister. He went into the desert to live a life of solitude and prayer. Saint Anthony spent eighty-five years in the solitary desert before departing in the year 356 A.D. Orthodox Christians refer to him as the "Father of Monasticism" because he was among the first to have left everything, in order to live in solitude with God.

May his holy blessings be with us all amen.

A decorative frame made of golden, thorny branches. At the top center is a large golden cross with a crown of thorns. Below the cross are three circular icons: a cruciform church, a circular church, and a ship-shaped church. The text "3 CHURCH SHAPES" is written in a stylized, blue, outlined font below the icons. To the right of the text is a list of three bullet points describing the shapes. At the bottom center, the number "5" is written inside a white circle with a black border.

3 CHURCH SHAPES

- ❖ **The Cruciform Shape:** This type gives an idea of the mystical nature of the Church, as being the crucified Body of Christ.
- ❖ **The Circular Shape:** This design refers to the eternal nature of the Church as being an endless line. This shape is very common in the Coptic architecture.
- ❖ **The Shape of a Ship:** This is 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 has the ability to save men. This describes the church in the form of a ship.

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st. Mark The Apostle

He is the author of the earliest Gospel to be written. When he entered Alexandria, his shoe was torn. He went to a cobbler in the city, called Anianus, to repair it. While he was repairing it the awl pierced his finger. Anianus shouted in Greek saying "eis theos" which means "O, One God". When St. Mark heard these words, his heart rejoiced. The Apostle took some clay, spat on it and applied it to Anianus' finger, saying in the Name of Jesus Christ the Son of God, and the wound healed immediately.

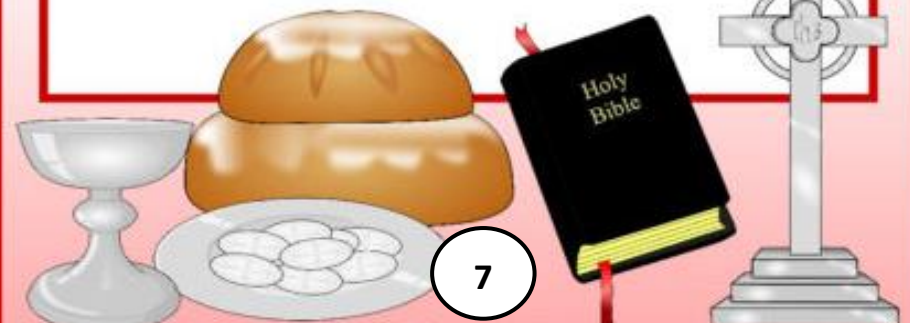
Anianus was exceedingly amazed by this miracle and his heart opened to the word of God. The Apostle asked him about who was the only God that he cried for when he was injured. Anianus replied "I heard about him, but I do not know him." St. Mark started explaining to him about God and Christ.

Anianus invited him to go to his house and St Mark preached and baptized Anianus and his children. St. Mark ordained St Anianus a Bishop for Alexandria, three priests and seven deacons



Oblation bread

Should be made round shaped as the sun, which emits heat, warmth, and light, as when we take Holy Communion, we are filled with the grace emitted from the sun of righteousness Jesus Christ as the light of Christ shines within us, and expels the darkness of sin from our lives. The circle also refers to the eternal Lord Jesus Christ and to eternity as the circle has no beginning and no end. The five holes in the holy bread refer to Christ's wounds, the two holes in his hands, the hole in his feet, the stabbing of the spear on his side, and the crown of thorns. The five holes also are made to avoid any cracks during baking, so that the holy bread has no faults as Jesus Christ is perfect.



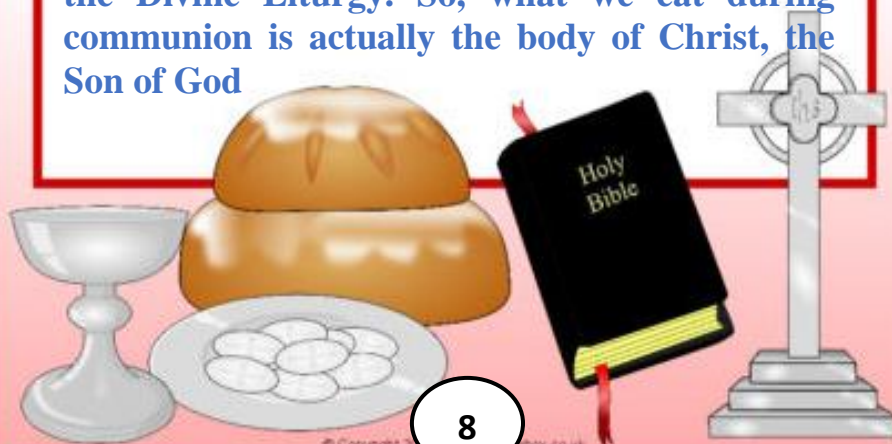
A middle cross surrounded by twelve crosses. These represent the twelve disciples and Jesus Christ himself the cornerstone.

The large, centered cross refers to Jesus Christ, therefore the part of the holy bread that holds this cross in the middle is called "Espadikon", and this part is the piece which the priest puts in the chalice.

While the twelve crosses surrounding the middle cross refer to the twelve Disciples of Christ, this indicates the existence of Jesus Christ always amidst His disciples.

The three sanctifications "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy immortal who does not die," are written in Coptic in a circular motion around the holy bread. This symbolizes Christ's presence surrounding His church in the world so that it will never be shaken.

This is the prayer we say in each hour of the Psalms (Agpeya), and before reading the Bible in the Divine Liturgy. So, what we eat during communion is actually the body of Christ, the Son of God



**Saints
Important
People**

**St. Athanasius
The Apostolic**

Saint Athanasius was the 20th Patriarch of Alexandria and is remembered as the defender of the Orthodox Faith.

He was born in the year 297 A.D. to righteous Orthodox Christian parents, who raised him up learning about the word of God. After a short while, he was baptized, ordained as a deacon, and taken as a disciple of Pope Alexander, the 19th Pope of Alexandria.

Pope Athanasius' most recognized contribution to the Orthodox Church is his defense of the faith against the Arian heresy in the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. At some point, the entire world believed in that heresy. Pope Athanasius was the only remaining defender of the truth. When he was asked what he would do since the whole world was against him, he responded saying, "If the whole world is against me, I am against the world."

He is also credited with authoring the Orthodox Creed, which can be seen written at the top of his icon. Shortly after, Pope Alexander departed, and Pope Athanasius was selected as his successor in the year 328 A.D.

While on the throne, he continued to purge the faith from any heretical thought, which resulted in him being exiled 5 times. until his departure at the age of seventy six years. He departed in peace after he had been on the Apostolic Throne for forty five years. The blessings and prayers of this blessed saint be with us all. Amen.

The Gospel



✚ A metal case, wherein a copy of the 4 gospels are placed.

✚ An icon of St. Mary is usually on one side, and an icon of Cross on the other

Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria



Tawadros II was born as on 4 November 1952 in the city of Mansoura, Kingdom of Egypt. He studied at the University of Alexandria, where he received a degree in pharmacy in 1975. After a few years of managing a state-owned pharmaceutical factory, he joined the Monastery of Saint Pishoy in Wadi El-Natrun to study theology for two years.

In 1988, he was formally ordained a monk by Pope Shenouda III and given the name "Theodore Anba-Bishoy." He was ordained a priest in 1989, then a bishop on 1997.

On November, 18th 2012 Bishop Tawadros was selected to be the 118th Pope of Alexandria, under the name Pope Tawadros II.

His Holiness is still serving Christ today and is our current pope.



Paten (Oblation bread plate)

And Chalice

In which the oblation bread and wine are placed during the sacramental service of the Divine Liturgy, and they are converted by the power of the Holy Spirit into the True Body and the True Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Last Supper, the Lord used a paten and a chalice (Matthew 26:26&27) and following Him the Apostles did the same (1 Corinthians 10:16) The paten, is also used to protect against losing any fragments from the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is placed in it so it represents: The womb of St. Mary; the manger and the tomb.

The Spoon (Masteer)

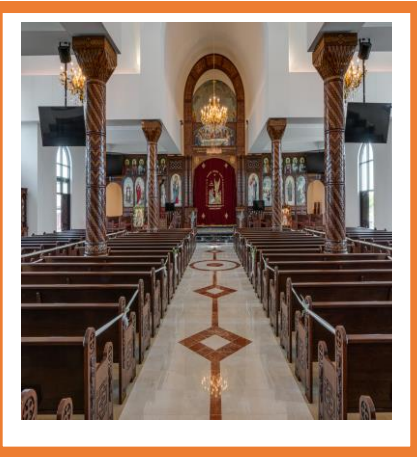


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