

St George Newsletter

JULY 2012



But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth

Acts 1:8

The Apostle's Feast—HH Pope Shenouda III

The Church celebrates the memory of the martyrdom of St. Peter and St.

Paul on the 5th of Abib, which is the 12th of July. This feast is called in our Church by the name of "the Feast of the Apostles". Its date is unchanged in every year.

The Church venerates these two apostles very profoundly; and raises them and honors them exceedingly; especially in the prayer of the partition" or "the division" which pertains to the fast of the apostles and to the feast of the apostles, which we pray during the holy mass.

These two saints represent two distinguished kinds as regards the personality, the mission, and the style. Each one of them has distinct characteristics.

THE POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

Peter was among the first whom the Lord had chosen to work with Him (Matt. 10).

And Paul was not among the twelve, and not even among the seventy apostles, but the Lord chose him lastly, after the resurrection and years after the choice of Matthias.....

He did not follow Christ during His predication on earth. He rather said about that: "Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" (1 Cor. 15: 8 -9).

And although he was the last in his call, yet he "labored more abundantly than they all" (1 Cor. 15:10). That shows that it is not a matter of precedence, but according to the amount of weariness from exertion for God.

A person may not be the most ancient among the workers in ministry, and nevertheless he may be the strongest of all the workers. John the Baptist was not the first prophet in the Old Testament, but he was the last of them in their chronological order. Nevertheless it was said

that "among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist" (Matt. 11:11).

The apostle Peter was a married man. It was mentioned in the Gospel that Christ healed his step-mother from fever (Matt. 8: 14-15). In his journeys for the predication, he wandered accompanied by his wife as a sister (1 Cor. 9:5).

But the apostle Paul was a virgin. (1 Cor. 7:7). He called for the preference of virginity. "But each one has his own gift from God", "as the Lord has called each one..... Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called" (1 Cor. 7: 7,17,20). That proves that the Lord calls everybody to His service, whether they are married like Peter, or virgins like Paul. Peter began his life with the Lord Christ with love, confidence, and faith. But on the contrary: Paul began by enmity, as a persecutor of the Church and of everyone who followed Christ, so that the Lord, when He met him on the road to Damascus, began his conversation with him by reprimanding him saying: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" (Acts 9:4). Saint Peter was a simple man, a fisherman (Matt. 4:18). He was ignorant and was not instructed into culture or science. He is one of whom "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise" (1 Cor. 27). It was said of him, of him and saint John, "that they were uneducated and untrained men" (Acts 4:13). But saint Paul was one of the learned of his age, who was educated at the University of Tarsus, and brought up at the feet of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). He was well-known for his culture and for reading many books. (Acts 26:24).

That shows us that the Lord equally employs everybody for His kingdom, the learned and the simple. The important thing for them is to be useful utensils for the work of His grace

Did you know? How the Apostles Died



St. Peter He was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.

St. Andrew

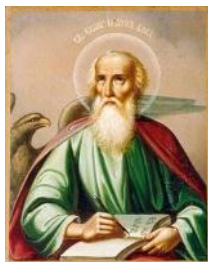


Was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras , Greece . After being whipped severely by seven soldiers they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. His followers reported that, when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: 'I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it.' He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired

St. James



Just The leader of the church in Jerusalem. He was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club (This was the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the Temptation)



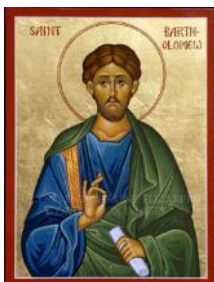
St. John

Faced martyrdom when he was boiled in huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison island of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation on Patmos. The apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.



St. Philip

He was tortured severely, and then was crucified head down in Herapolis.



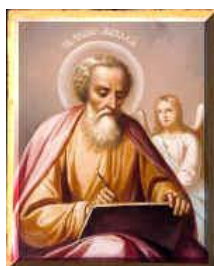
St. Bartholomew

Also known as Nathaniel was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.



St. Thomas

Was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the sub-continent.



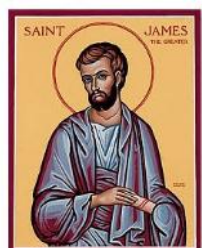
St. Matthew

Suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound.



St. Luke

He was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.

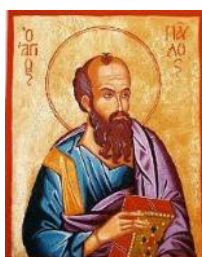
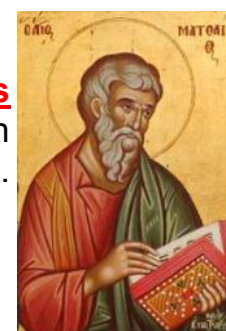


St. James the Great

Son of Zebedee. He was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was ultimately beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later, the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction, he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.

St. Matthias

The apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot, was stoned and then beheaded.



St. Paul

Was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire. These letters, which taught many of the foundational doctrines of Christianity, form a large portion of the New Testament.

St. Mark

Died in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.



St George Services

Sunday

Early Liturgy	6:30-8:30am
English Liturgy	8:00-11:00am
Arabic Liturgy	8:30-11:30am
Sunday School	11:00-12:30pm
Servants Meeting	12:50-1:30pm

Tuesday

Liturgy	5:00-7:00am
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Wednesday

Liturgy	9:00-11:30pm
Prayer Meeting	7:00-8:00pm

Friday

Liturgy	9:00-11:30pm
Teens Meeting	7:30-9:00pm
Youth Meeting	8:30-10:00pm

** Ladies Meeting on the first Friday of every month at 7pm*

Saturday

English Liturgy	8:00-10:30am
Vespers	7:00-8:30pm
English Vespers	7:00-8:00pm
Midnight Praises	8:30-10:30pm

(Confession: Wed, Fri and Sat nights by appointment)

St George Accounts

General Account

(Receipts issued from this account **are not** tax deductible)

Account Name: St George
Coptic Orthodox Church

BSB: 062199

Account Number: 0090 3651

Building Fund Account

(Receipts issued from this account **are** tax deductible)

Account Name: St George
School Building Fund

BSB: 062199

Account Number: 1008 7359

May our Lord accept your donations bless your lives and everything you do.

The Church Rite: The Lakan

Lakan is a Syrian word means basin, and it is the pot of marble or stone placed in the third Khurs of the church where the priests pray on the water to make it a force for healing and Beatification ...

The Mass of Lakan has been Instituted to remember the baptism of Jesus and to exercise of the virtue of humility as bending to wash the feet of His disciples in the holy Thursday as well as to practice the meaning of service.

The mass of the Lakan is prayed times per year: Epiphany – The Holy Thursday – The Feast of Apostles.