

# BYZ#KIDS



JUNE 2023  
COPTS



St. Katherine of Alexandria



Raising of Incense



Entry into Egypt and Traditions of the Copts



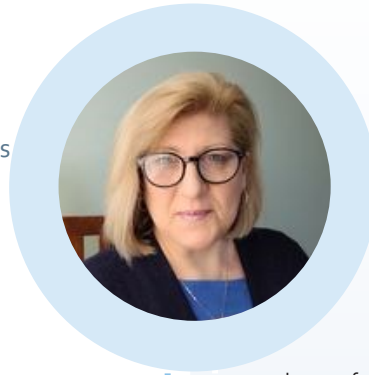
Spiritual Gathering of the Syrian Fathers

**MORE**

- Caught you listening
- Finding God in the Desert
- Crafts, recipes and MORE..

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# G

lory to Jesus Christ!

Dear ByziParents,

Before I was married and had my own ByziKids (many, many years ago!) I had a side job as a Byzantine Studies teacher at a local, bi-ritual, parochial school. We had students from families who were both Western and Eastern Catholic, from many different Catholic Churches and my job was to help each understand and appreciate the others. One day, I got a new student. His family had recently moved to our area from Brooklyn, New York and chose our area specifically because it had an Eastern Catholic school where their children could share their heritage and culture openly and worship in a way that wasn't terribly unfamiliar. That impressed me. He was my only Coptic student, but was a wonderful influence on the rest of the class and shared his great sense of devotion and love of God with us all.

It is our hope to share some of the culture and tradition of the Copts with you all in this issue by highlighting the Feast of the Entry of Christ into Egypt on June 1st. Have you not heard of this feast? Perhaps it's because most people think of it from an opposite perspective! We hear much about the Flight to Egypt, when the Little Christ Child was running AWAY from Herod, but think of the opposite perspective! Christ ran TO Egypt for safety, comfort and refuge and Egypt welcomed Him! What a blessing to that country!

My husband and I traveled to Egypt on our honeymoon (also many, many years ago!) and noted that the people there were some of the most hospitable and generous people we had ever met.

We would like to extend our thanks to Basma, of Joy in Play! She's a Coptic, homeschool mom who creates Coptic worksheets, printables, and craft ideas and she has generously shared some of her work with us in this special issue! You can see more of what she has to offer in her Etsy store at:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/joyinplay/?etsrc=sdt>

Enjoy her work!  
Enjoy the issue!

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# I SPY IN MY LITTLE ICON



By Kh. Jocelyn Abyad



Syriac is a form of the Aramaic language (the language that Jesus and his apostles spoke) and is the common thread among these saints. From the years 500 to 900, the Syriac written and spoken language flourished, and amazingly, we have written documents from this time period that have survived to this day. That means that we have actual copies of some of the documents written by these incredible saints over 1,100 years ago! These saints are also known for their amazing poems, hymns and homilies as well as their extreme examples of aestheticism. Aestheticism is the practice of giving up earthly pleasures to better focus all our energies on drawing nearer to God. Together, these Syriac Fathers provide us with beautiful examples of total devotion to Our Lord. Check out the bubbles above to find out just a little bit about each of the saints included here!

As we learn about the Coptic Church this month, we wanted to share an icon written in the Coptic style with you as well!

While there are many theological similarities in Byzantine and Coptic icons, you will notice that Coptic icons have a very different "feel" than the Byzantine icons that we are used to seeing. Coptic icons rely heavily on the artistic style of Ancient Egypt and a great effort has been made in the last 50 years to revive this style of painting icons and preserve this beautiful tradition.

This icon is called "the Spiritual Gathering of the Syrian Fathers." As in all icons, this two dimensional picture is designed to convey spiritual truths and draw us into deeper reflection on Christ and His saints as opposed to painting a realistic drawing. These saints did not all live at the same time or know each other, but are gathered here in one icon as spiritual examples for us to emulate.

1. We see Christ at the top of the icon, His light pouring out wisdom upon all His saints. He is attended by two cherubim holding musical instruments, eternally singing His praise.
2. St. Ephrem is acknowledged as one of the foremost of the Syrian Fathers and we have over 400 of his hymns still available to us today, though he is particularly known for his poetry.
3. St. Isaac of Nineveh served as a bishop for just five months and then asked to return to the solitude of the desert to live and pray.
4. St. Jacob the Teacher (also known as St. Jacob of Sarug) is known as the "flute of the Holy Spirit and the harp of the believing church." He wrote over 800 homilies, letters, and hymns!
5. St. John the Hermit lived an extremely aesthetic life in a cave in the desert and was killed by a hunter mistaking him for an animal at the age of 89.
6. St. Jacob of Nisibis was present at the council of Nicea and also is known for seeking and finding a piece of Noah's Ark after its location was revealed to him by an angel in a dream.
7. St. Narasai founded a school in Nisbis and served as the rector there for over 50 years. He was beloved by all who knew him.
8. St. Simeon the Stylite so desired to be left alone to pray that he had a pillar erected for him with a small platform on top. The pillar was over 50 feet high!
9. The unnamed monastic represents the Syrian monks who chose to live in the caves and dedicate their whole lives to God. They survived on bread and raw vegetables and spent all their hours in prayer.

# Finding God in the Desert

By Lynne Wardach



The Battle of the Milvian Bridge in a 9th-century Byzantine manuscript.

*"If the martyrs of the whole world were put on one arm of the balance and the martyrs of Egypt on the other, the balance will tilt in favor of the Copts."*

Tertullian, 3rd-century

Beginning in the fourth century, after Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity, Christianity became well... fashionable. After all, if the emperor was doing it, everyone else wanted to do it too! But after a while, it became apparent that some who said they were Christians simply did that to be popular and not because they wanted to repent of their sinful ways and follow Christ. True Christians found it very difficult to be taken seriously at that time. After some time, those who wanted to journey toward union with God were fed up with society and took off to find a place where they could be still and seriously concentrate on growing in their relationship with God.

**Psalm 63:1** *O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

Egypt offered just the place to be alone with God. Many great and holy people had written in the scriptures about finding God in the desert. Like the prophet Isaiah!

**Isaiah 35:1** *The wilderness and the desert will be glad, and the desert will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.*

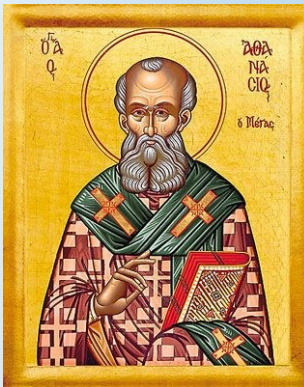
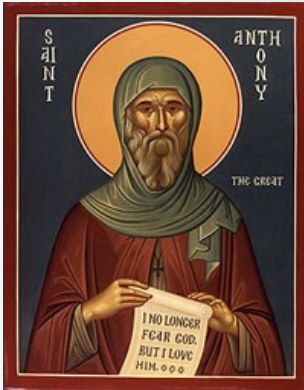
John the Baptist grew up in the desert to prepare for his mission as the Forerunner!

**Mark 1:4** *John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

Even Jesus, Himself went into the desert to pray and prepare!

**Matthew 4:1** *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

The first man to do this was **St. Anthony the Great**, an Egyptian monk renowned for his life of prayer, sacrifice, and fierce battles with temptation. He was such a great example that many others followed him into the desert and imitated his way of life. For this, he is known as the Father of Christian Monasticism, and many modern Coptic monks follow St. Anthony's Rule of life to this day!



The Chotki, or knotted cords, were first made and used by **St. Pachomius**, another Egyptian monk of the fourth century, to keep better track of his prostrations during the day. Later, the monk noticed that as he tried to pray with these knotted cords, the devil would come and attempt to trip him up by untying the knots! It is said that the Theotokos, herself, appeared to him and taught him how to tie each knot in the form of seven crosses so that the enemy, at the sign of the cross, would flee and leave him to his precious prayers.



**St. Macarius** was another Egyptian Desert Father who had a visit from a young man who asked St. Macarius how to live a monastic life. The saint sent him to a nearby cemetery and told him to insult the dead people buried there and report back to him afterward. When the young man returned, Macarius asked him what the dead had to say about the insults. Of course, he answered them that he saw no reaction from them. So the next day, Father Macarius told the man to return, and he should flatter the dead this time. Again, there was no response. It was then that Macarius said to the young man that to be a good monk, you must act like the dead and give no reaction to either praise or insult.

**St. Athanasius** is a very famous Egyptian saint of the fourth century who defended Orthodoxy against the Arian heresy. When St. Athanasius was just a little boy growing up in second-century Alexandria in Egypt, he played at the beach one day with his friends. They started to play "Church," as all children do, and Athanasius was pretending to be the bishop. The Christian children began to baptize all of their pagan friends. Since Athanasius had paid such good attention at Liturgy, he knew precisely what prayers should be said and what form should be followed to make it a perfectly valid sacrament. It just so happened that the real bishop, Patriarch Alexander, had watched the children playing from his window and had overheard the whole thing! He summoned all of the children and their parents and pronounced that Athanasius had done such an excellent job at the beach that day that the mystery of baptism had indeed already taken place and sealed all of the newly baptized children with the mystery of Chrismation!

A Feast Day RECIPE from ByziMom.com for  
November 24

St. Katherine of Alexandria's

# Koulouri Wheels



*It is said that St. Katherine was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 287 AD to a wealthy, noble family. When she was only 14 she had a vision of the Theotokos and the Christ child, in which the little one gave her a ring, signifying that she was betrothed to Him! After her conversion, she avidly denounced the persecution of Christians under Emperor Maxentius, debating and often converting those he sent to change her mind. He threatened her with martyrdom yet nothing would dissuade her. Because of her beauty, Maxentius offered to commute her sentence if she would consent to marry him. When Katherine flatly refused, saying she had promised herself to Jesus alone, he sentenced her to a cruel death by being tied to a spiked wheel. When she touched the wheel, however, it shattered to pieces.*

## Ingredients

- 1 cup bread flour
- 1 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- 2 Tbs honey
- 1 tsp (8 gr.) dry yeast
- 1 cup (250 ml.) tepid water

## For the coating

- 2 cups water
- 3 Tbs sugar
- 2 cups sesame seed

## Preparation

1. Dilute the honey with the tepid water (room temperature) and when completely combined, stir in the yeast. Set aside for 10 minutes for it to foam.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flours and salt, stirring together for a couple of minutes. Stir in the yeast mixture then beat well for 7 or 8 minutes until a soft dough forms; it should be elastic and easily lift from the bowl.
3. Lightly grease the sides of a bowl. Transfer dough, cover with plastic wrap and let rest for 30-90 minutes. The dough should rise to about double.
4. Heat oven to 400 degrees F.
5. Prepare coating: dissolve sugar in 2 cups water. Spread sesame seeds in a shallow pan.
6. Lightly grease kitchen counter or another work surface. Place dough on surface and divide into 10 pieces. Roll pieces into balls.
7. Knead each ball into a sausage shape, then gently turn ends towards each other to form a circle or koulouri. The rings should be roughly the same size.
8. Carefully dip each ring into the sugar water and then into the sesame seeds. Place koulouri on a baking sheet lined with paper and bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. (For deeper flavor and softer texture, add 2 tablespoons tahini to the dough.)

*This Greek family recipe is shared with ByziMom courtesy of Mrs. Katherine Hayes and her Yiayia.*

MEANWHILE, BACK IN



# BYZANTIUM



by Kathryn Reetzke



You may be used to the terms “Matins” and “Vespers,” but in the Coptic tradition, these services are called “The Morning Raising of Incense” and “The Evening Raising of Incense,” with reference to prayers rising to God. The photos above show incense burners from the Byzantine Coptic period (4th-7th Century) found in Kharga Oasis and currently housed at The MET (photos are open access).

The Agpeya are the seven canonical prayers used in the Coptic Church. The practice of saying these 12 Psalms and prayers split into 7 hours\* began as early as when the Apostle St Mark came to Egypt as a missionary. St. Mark also became the first Patriarch of Egypt.

Later in Alexandria there were disagreements over how many Psalms and prostrations should be made during these prayers. During this time of meetings with various church leaders, such as Abba Pachomius (reposed May 9th 348 AD), about which words to pray, an angel appeared with them, singing and praying the Psalms. After the angel’s visit those leaders present chose twelve Psalms and the other prayers just as the angel had sung them, forming the Agpeya used today.

With the presence of a faithful prayer life for all the laity, Egypt became the setting for St Anthony the Great and the establishment of Desert Monasticism. The ascetic practices in Egypt by both the faithful laity and monastics are evidence of a rich prayer life devoted to God. May we learn from our Coptic brothers and sisters more about having a prayerful life.

\*(Each hour is composed of an introduction which includes the Lord’s Prayer, the Prayer of Thanksgiving, and Psalm 50. It is followed by various Psalms, an excerpt from the Holy Gospel, and Litanies. Lord Have Mercy is then chanted 41 times (representing the 39 lashes Christ received before the crucifixion, plus one for the spear in His side, plus one for the crown of thorns), followed by several other prayers and a conclusion).

”Seven times a day I praise You because of Your righteous judgments” (Psalms 119:164)

# KNOW YOUR FAITH

By Lynne Wardach

## Entry into Egypt and Traditions of the Copts



Mosaic at the Hanging Church of Cairo, Egypt

*On June 1, Coptic Christians will commemorate the Entry of the Infant Jesus into Egypt to escape persecution from King Herod. I once read an exciting sermon written on this subject by Bishop Dimetrius of the Holy Diocese of Mallawi, Ansena, and El-Ashmunein, and Abbot of the Monastery of Saint Fana, Upper Egypt. I was inspired to recount some of it for you in this special issue of ByziKids.*

If we remember our Old Testament scripture stories correctly, the ancient Egyptians had once held the people of God in captivity. We recall that Moses was

sent to Pharaoh to announce that God wanted His people to be set free. When Pharaoh refused, God sent many plagues to Egypt to convince him to do as God wished. Eventually, Pharaoh did set the people of God free, and they were able to leave that land of hardship and run to the land God had promised them. Consequently, the earliest Christians considered the land of Egypt an unpleasant memory filled with suffering.

When the Messiah, the baby Jesus, was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the jealous King Herod had plans



to kill him. God then revealed to Joseph, husband of the Theotokos, that the family should go quickly to Egypt for safety and protection.

**Matthew 2:13-15** *When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."*

*So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."*

So they fled there by night and lived among the Egyptian people for three to four years while Jesus was just a toddler, and when Herod had died, and it was finally safe to do so, they returned home.

**Hosea 11:1** *Out of Egypt I called my Son.*

Bishop Demetrius reminds us that we can learn from this example. When unavoidable evil threatens us, and we know that we are weak and vulnerable, like the little child Jesus was, it is better to run away to a safe place than to stay and fight it. Christ was able to run to the safety of Egypt, and by doing so, He blessed it and restored the dignity to it that it once held, calling upon the land of Egypt to become a comfortable place of refuge for His Son! This event is joyously celebrated by Copts each year on June 1, the Feast of Christ's Entry into the Land of Egypt.

There are many accounts of what that trip was like for the holy family, and it is clear that the path was difficult. It is said that the idols the Egyptians had worshipped were consecrated to evil spirits, and when the Christ Child passed by them on His way, they spontaneously crumbled and fell to the ground! A historian of the fourth century, Paladius, Bishop of Heliopolis, recorded in his journal that he had seen these fragments of ancient idols for himself while he had visited a district of Upper Egypt called El-Ashmoneen, which was along the path of the journey of the Holy Family.

They encountered so many troubles as they made their way, entering a land without relatives or

friends. We can think of this when we look around us and see that we have very few friends who are believers and that those around us don't understand our Christian culture and may even make fun of us. We are to be like the little Lord Jesus and endure being a stranger in a foreign land, for we know that we will someday be most welcome and at home in the heavenly Kingdom!

**Isaiah 19: 19-25** *On that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the center of the*

*land of Egypt... The Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the Lord on that day and will worship with sacrifice and burnt offering, and they will make vows to the Lord and perform them... whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, 'Blessed be Egypt, my people.*

The Coptic Synaxarion tells us that while Christ resided in Egypt, He had a visit from a man named Wadamoun, who had heard about him from some of the townspeople. When Wadamoun entered into the presence of the little Lord Jesus, he knelt before Him and began to recognize within Him the Divine presence of God. Jesus told Wadamoun that He realized why he had come and that He and His mother would live in Wadamoun's house forever! At this, Wadamoun was so happy and came to believe in Him as the Messiah. Then Jesus told him,

*"Your home will be a house for Me and My mother forever. When you return home, and the heathen hear that you came to Me, they will be sorry and hurt, and they will shed your blood in your house. Don't be afraid because I will receive you in My heavenly kingdom forever, the place of perpetual joy, which has no end. You will be the first martyr in Upper Egypt."*

Jesus blessed Wadamoun, and he went home, and the events unfolded exactly as the Lord had told him. After some time, when Christianity was accepted in Egypt, Wadamoun's house was converted into a Church, consecrated to the Theotokos and her Son, called El-Gishouna, which means "the church of the living, and still exists today just outside the region of Armant, in Upper Egypt.

# The Byzikids Co-op Program

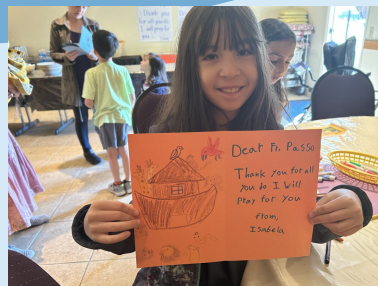
is an Eastern Christian homeschool or Church school network that seeks to support and encourage families as they live out their Byzantine faith in an in-person setting. By utilizing the readily available resources of Byzikids magazine, Byzikids Co-Ops meet monthly to support each other, pray for and with each other, and share crafts and activities that enrich our homeschool education in the faith. It is our desire for Byzantine families to find local fellowship and support for our way of life.



Each Co-Op will require a designated local representative (that may be YOU!) that will receive communication from the Byzikids team of staff. This representative will secure the meeting place and dates for the local meetings. It is highly recommended that you also secure a spiritual father for the group to provide spiritual guidance.

So you see, monthly meetings can be completely customized for your own local group! Each month, we email you a recommended guideline for the meeting that we think will work well. It will include a lesson plan with suggested prayers, activities, snacks, crafts, and more!

For more information about setting up your own co-op program or to find information about one already in your area, email us at [ByziKids@gmail.com](mailto:ByziKids@gmail.com)!



A Feast Day RECIPE from ByziMom.com for June 1

Christ's Entry into Egypt

# Handprint Cookies



*There is a story, written down by a Coptic priest named Abu El-Makarim, which tells that as the Holy Family fled from Bethlehem to Egypt they traveled down the banks of the Nile. A witch who was on the hill above the bank of the river suddenly pushed a huge boulder down the hill toward them. The little Lord Jesus stopped it in its tracks with the palm of His little hand and saved the family from danger, leaving the imprint of His palm upon the boulder. This rock is able to be seen today on a Coptic Church that sits upon a cliff that towers over the east bank of the Nile River called Gabal Al-Kaf, which means "The Mountain of the Palm".*

*There is also a legend that tells that, as the Holy Family traveled from Bethlehem to Egypt, the Theotokos hung their washing on a rosemary bush to dry, turning the once white flowers to the beautiful blue color they are today.*

## Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Sanding or granulated sugar, for decorating
- The zest of a lemon
- 1 Tbsp chopped, fresh rosemary

## Preparation

Sift together in a large mixing bowl, the flour, baking powder, and salt; set aside. Combine butter and granulated sugar in a separate mixing bowl and beat on medium speed until fluffy. Add egg and vanilla; mix well. Add flour mixture a little at a time and beat just until combined.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Divide dough into 6 balls. Press balls on a floured work surface until about 4 or 5 inches in diameter. Transfer to a baking sheet. With lightly floured hands, let your ByziKid gently and evenly press their hand into a piece of dough to make hand print indentations, just like the little Lord, Jesus. Sprinkle indentations with sanding sugar. Bake until the edges of your cookies just begin to brown 15 to 18 minutes.

# Caught You Listening

Khouria Sylvia Dorham

**June 4, 2023**

**Gospel: Matthew 10:32-38; 19:27-30**

Today's Gospel contains several paradoxes, that is, things that seem backward until you find out what Jesus is really talking about. Fill in the blanks to read them:

"I have not come to bring \_\_\_\_\_, but a \_\_\_\_\_."

"A man's enemies will be those of his own \_\_\_\_\_."

"He who does not take up his \_\_\_\_\_ and follow me is not \_\_\_\_\_ of me."

"He who \_\_\_\_\_ his life will \_\_\_\_\_ it."

"He who \_\_\_\_\_ his life for my name's sake will \_\_\_\_\_ it."

"Many that are \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_."

**Word Bank:**

Household Peace Last Loses  
Sword Cross Worthy Finds Lose  
First Last First Find



Icon courtesy of Iconographics

**June 11, 2023**

**Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23**

Jesus called twelve apostles. In today's Gospel, we hear about the first four.

Can you name them? The first letter is provided for you:

S \_\_\_\_\_ (who is called P \_\_\_\_\_)

A \_\_\_\_\_

J \_\_\_\_\_

J \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the other eight apostles do you know?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Icon courtesy of Iconographics

**June 18, 2023**

**Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33**

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to seek HIM, not OURSELVES. He says not to be anxious about five earthly things. What are they?

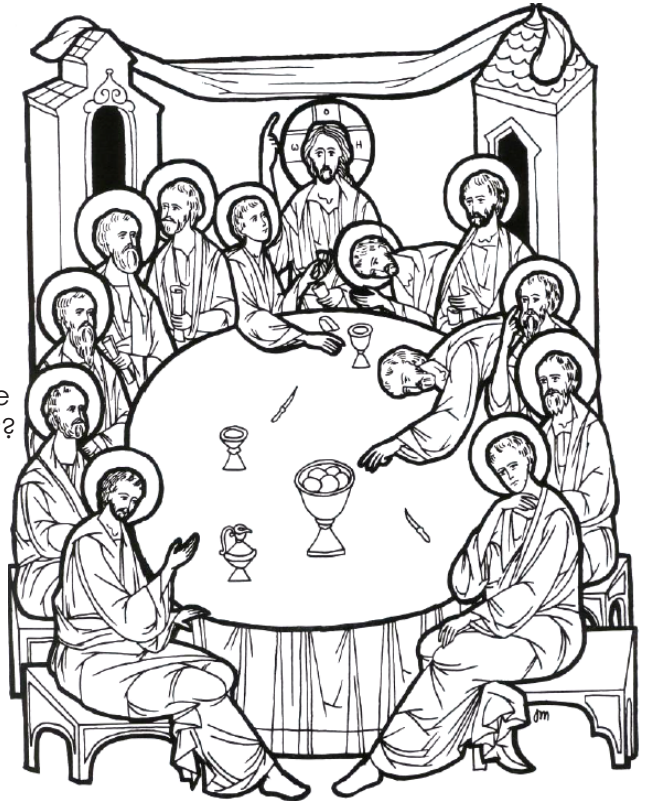
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Our heavenly Father knows we need all those things! Instead, he tells us first to seek what two things?

- 1.
- 2.

**Word Bank:**

Your body His kingdom Your life  
Your clothing What you shall eat  
What you shall drink His righteousness



Icon courtesy of Iconographics

**June 25, 2023**

**Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13**

In this Gospel, Jesus tells us that we might be surprised at some of the people in heaven with us. He also mentions we might be surprised at who ISN'T in heaven.

Answer the clues to find out what kind of man surprised Jesus by his faith.

- Propel a boat with an oar: \_\_\_\_\_  
Opposite of woman \_\_\_\_\_  
1/100th of a dollar \_\_\_\_\_  
Opposite of me \_\_\_\_\_  
Prefix that means 'again' \_\_\_\_\_  
Opposite of 'off' \_\_\_\_\_



Icon courtesy of Iconographics

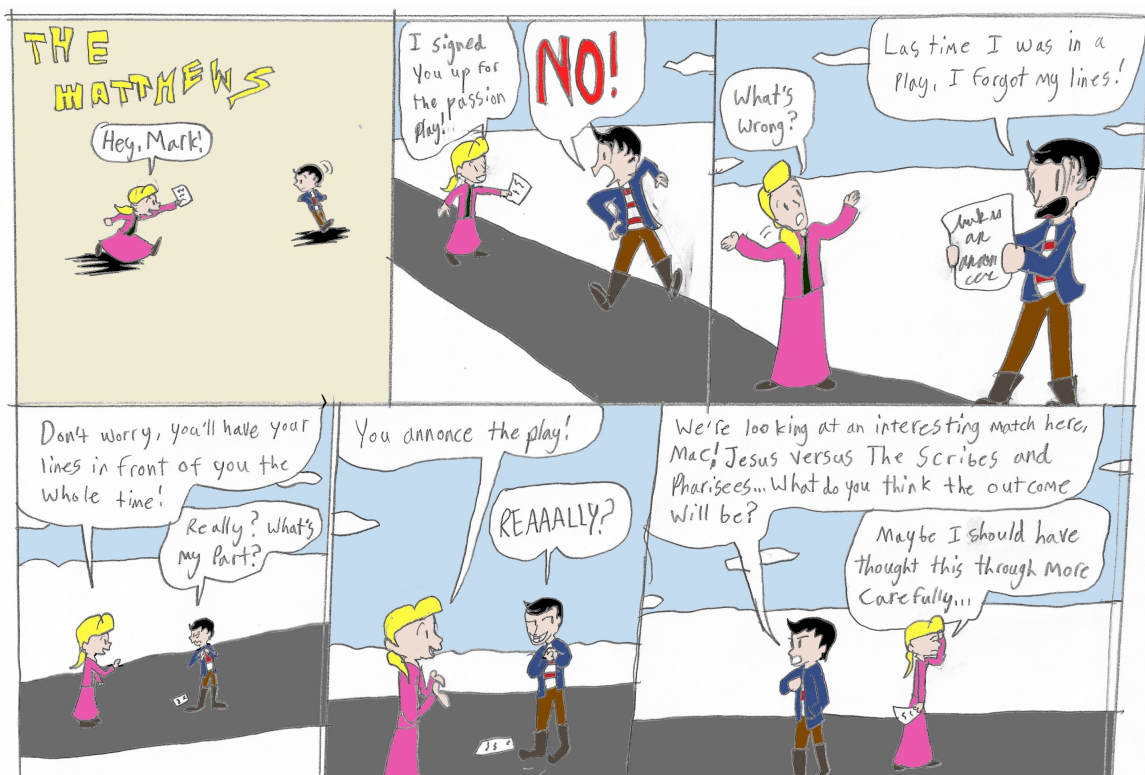
• IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME •



Written by Father Sebastian

This month of June we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, the Octave of Pentecost. Most people in the Western world associate the Feast of All Saints with November 1st. This is the result of the Western Church having moved the celebration of All Saints from the Octave of Pentecost to the month of October in the 8th century. In the Byzantine Liturgical Tradition, however, we still celebrate the Feast of All Saints as it was originally intended, that is, as an Octave of Pentecost. What's the relationship? The Christian Feast of Pentecost commemorates how, on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, a commemoration of the giving of the Law at Sinai, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, giving them the Word of God, written, not on stone tablets, but on the tablets of their hearts, a result of the New Covenant, as was predicted by the Prophets of old (Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-29). The Octave of Pentecost, the Feast of All Saints, is a celebration of the Fruit of that First Christian Pentecost, as what was given to the Apostles on that day has been given to all those who desire to be saints like them. What is a saint? The English word comes through French from the Latin word sanctus, which is itself a translation of the use of the Greek word agios in the Bible. Agios is a translation of the Hebrew qadosh, which means "set apart" or "distinct." We who have been given the Word of God in our flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit have become distinct, set apart, from all Creation. We have all become "saints." Now that's something to celebrate.

Rev. Sebastian Carnazzo, PhD is pastor of St Elias Melkite Church in San Jose, CA (STELIASMELKITE.ORG) and teaches online Greek classes for kids through The Academy of Classical Greek (ACADEMYOFCLASSICALGREEK.COM)

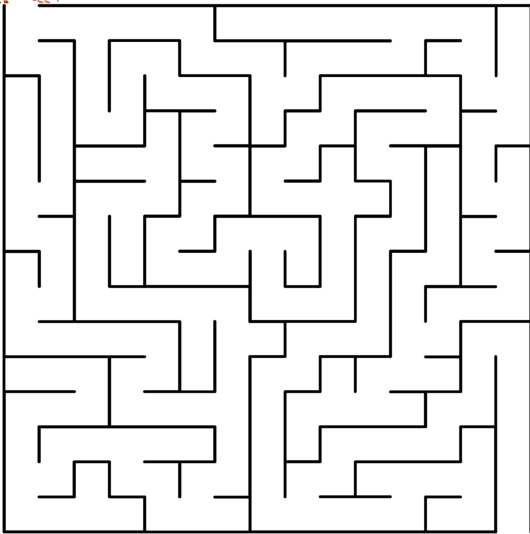


# WORD SEARCH



## Maze

Help Jesus, St. Mary, and St. Joseph escape King Herod and get to Egypt.



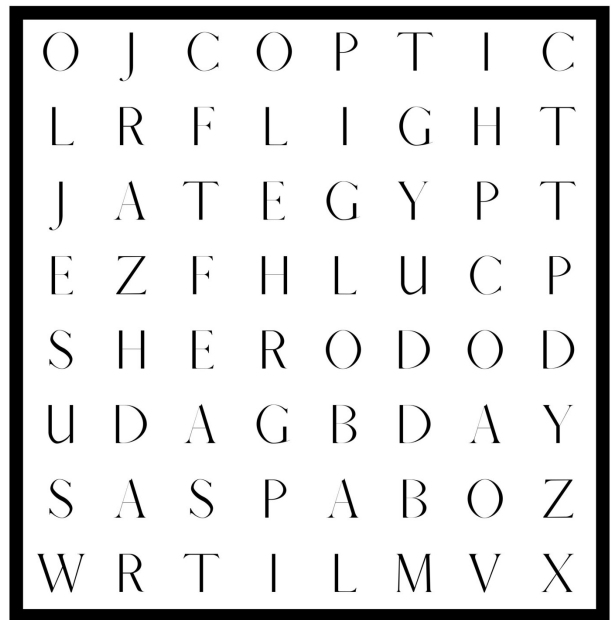
EGYPT



## Word Search



Find the words hiding below!



GLOBAL  
COPTIC  
DAY

ORTHODOX  
EGYPT  
FLIGHT

JESUS  
FEAST  
HEROD



# Once Upon a SAINT

Rebecca O'Loughlin

## St. Katherine of Alexandria



Dearest children, St. Katherine was born in Alexandria, which is in Egypt, the daughter of Conostas, governor of Alexandria and his Christian wife. She was the apple of her daddy's eye, and since she loved learning so much and she was after all a wealthy princess, her father made sure she would get the best education possible, and together they developed a world renowned and magnificent library. In those days there was no place in the world a library as beautiful or as big as in Alexandria. Katherine was so bright and had accomplished so much that when she was fourteen her parents realized they would have a hard time finding her a good husband. Katherine agreed.

"In fact," announced Katherine, "I will only marry a man that is admired for more achievements, is more wealthy, more beautiful, and wiser than I am."

What a dilemma her parents had! Well, Katherine's mother knew what to do. She brought Katherine to the priest-hermit living in a nearby cave.

"Ooab (Ooab is what you call a priest in Coptic)," she pleaded, "what shall we do? Katherine is simply most remarkable! Is there a man good enough for her?"

"Indeed!" The good Father replied. Turning to Katherine he told her, "there is such a Man. I know Him! He has built the tallest mountains and the deepest seas! His riches are all that is in the world! He is more radiant than the sun! His wisdom governs all creation!"

Katherine gasped with excitement: "Then I will marry Him alone! Tell me!"

"Christ the Bridegroom, of course! Here, child, take this icon of Christ and His Mother. Pray to see Him and ask Him to accept your desire."



"Oh, thank you, Ooab!! My heart is on fire! I will do just as you say!"

Upon returning home, Katherine fervently prayed all night to Jesus and to His Blessed Mother that she would be accepted as a bride of Christ. But when Christ appeared in a vision, He turned His head away from her.

"I'm sorry, Katherine, but I can't even look at you! Until you are Baptised and sealed with the Holy Spirit, you are ugly, beggarly and mindless to Me."

Katherine returned at once to the holy Ooab and begged to be instructed in the Faith and received into the Church. So she was.

This time, when she received another vision of Christ, He beamed at her and handed her a beautiful gold ring:

"Katherine, my bride!"

\*\*\*

When Katherine was around eighteen years old, the Emperor Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maximianus came to visit Alexandria. Alexandria presented him with a lovely feast and decorated the whole city in his honor. Smoke rose above the city as animals for the feast were prepared and sacrificed. This wasn't what Maximianus expected, however. He wanted human sacrifices, not just animals. And who better to die than those wretched Christians, who after being tortured continued to confess Christ? In his opinion, Governor Constatas had been far too friendly with those Christ-followers.

Katherine was horrified, of course. She went straight to Maximianus and told him how wrong he was to kill people for their belief in God. What's more, she adamantly professed her love for Jesus in front of everyone! Maximianus was enthralled by her beauty and intelligence and brought in 50 of his wisest men to convince her of her errors. He was surprised when instead all 50 listened to her arguments with awe, and many of them decided to become Christian themselves. These new Christians were quickly burned at the stake by Maximianus in anger. He threw Katherine into prison to be tortured and starved.

While in prison, Katherine was visited by Christ the Bridegroom, Who encouraged her to be brave. He sent a dove to feed her and angels to comfort her. More than 200 of her friends and subjects came to talk to her. One notable visitor was Maximianus' own wife, Valeria Maximilla (sometimes called Augusta or Faustina) and her military escort, Captain Porphyrius. Valeria had been impressed by Katherine's arguments and spiritual strength. The empress and Porphyrius

believed when Katherine spoke to them, and became Christian in secret. Katherine emerged from prison stronger and more radiant than ever.

Commanding a spiked wheel to be brought to him, Maximianus ordered Katherine to be tied to it and tortured. At her touch, however, the wheel fell to pieces. Impressed by this sight, the empress Valeria and Porphyrius announced that they too believed, along with several hundred others. This only enraged Maximianus all the more. He killed his wife and all the other new Christians.

Deciding to try a new tactic, Maximianus appealed to material goods, offering Katherine riches and even his hand in marriage if she would turn from God.

Katherine scoffed and her chin lifted proudly: "My husband is far richer and more powerful than you are. You would not have the riches you do if He did not allow it. He made you emperor so that you could do great good, but you are choosing great evil. You may kill me, but then my soul will be joined forever with my Spouse in heaven, and this gives me joy. But I hope you choose to repent instead, and if you do, I can assure you that my Husband will have mercy on you, and He is quite willing to forgive all of your wickedness if you promise to love and serve Him."

Maximianus was furious. He ordered Katherine beheaded. Katherine offered loud praise to her Bridegroom and laid her head on the block with joy. The sword did its job, but tradition says that no blood came from her neck, but rather a milk-like substance. The oil that came from her body healed those who gathered and touched it.

Katherine's head and left hand are incorrupt and kept in St. Katherine's Monastery in Egypt, a Monastery built by Byzantine Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century. The Monastery was built encircling the place where the burning bush of Moses was. While the monks were building, they were told where Katherine's remains lay, which was quite close, so they brought her body in as a blessing for the Monastery. True to Katherine's heart, the Monastery has the oldest continuing library in the world, having been circulating books and documents since the 6th century, and holds a large collection of ancient icons. Katherine is a saint we can appeal to when we are persecuted or feel like we are entering into battle. Did you know that St. Katherine appeared to St. Joan of Arc several times, comforting and strengthening her? I know she would love to help you on your journey as you are bold witnesses to Christ's love. St. Katherine's feast day is celebrated on the 24 or 25 November.



# CHOIR PRACTICE

By Khouria Sylvia Dorham

The Restoration of Egypt

## FOR WADAMOUN

This is a one-finger drum song – use ONE finger to make the drum beat to accompany this song. When everyone uses just one finger, it's amazing how loud your drum beat becomes!

Be sure to read the story of Wadamoun and be careful not to speed up the song as you drum.

Sun rises and sets. The sun rises and sets  
Egypt! O Egypt!  
From Herod's wrath we flee  
To be sheltered in the harbor  
Where we once longed to be free

Sun rises and sets. The sun rises and sets  
Egypt! O Egypt!  
"Out of you I called my Son!"  
Land of fear and suffering  
Your redemption has been won

Sun rises and sets. The sun rises and sets  
Egypt! O Egypt!  
Behold, I make things new  
Do not be afraid  
My house will ever be in you

Sun rises and sets. The sun rises and sets

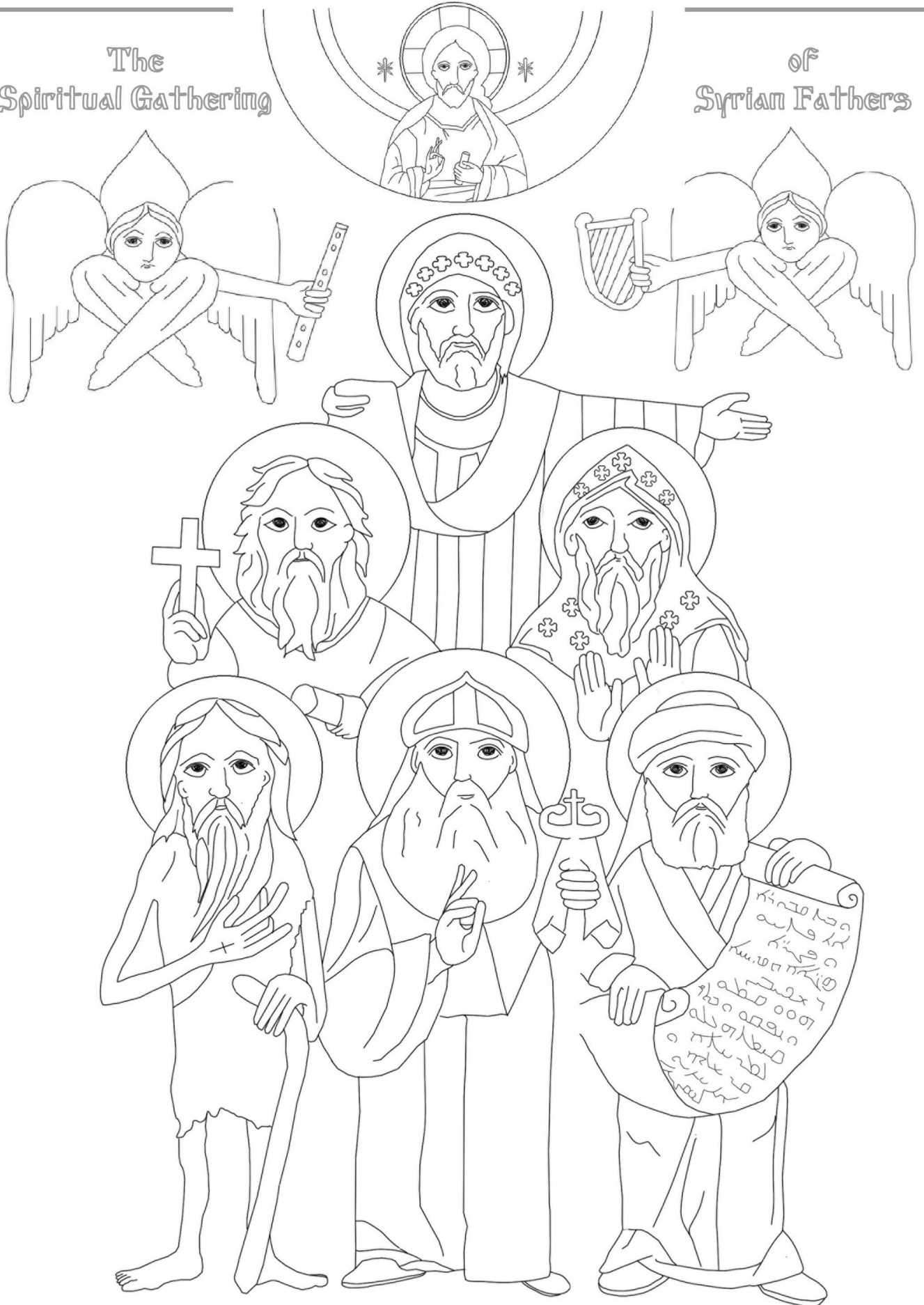


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To  
Hear

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The  
Spiritual Gathering

of  
Syrian Fathers



## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR June

This month is filled with so many fun and interesting things to do!

Visit the Activities Index on the ByziKids page at [ByziMom.com](https://www.byzimom.com) for all the links!

<https://www.byzimom.com/byzikids-magazine-extras>

June 1:

**The Entry of Christ into Egypt**



June 4:

**Sunday of All Saints (EC)**

- Check out the [ByziKids June 2020/Summer Sainly Celebration Issue](#) and throw an All Saints Day Sainly Celebration Party!
- Learn the [S-A-I-N-T Song!](#)

June 4:

**Pentecost (EO)**

- Get all the great printables!
- [Windsock Craft](#)
- [Pentecost Word Search](#)
- [Pentecost Maze](#)
- [Icon Coloring Page](#)
- [Pentecost Icon "I Spy"](#)

June 5:

**Apostles Fast Begins (EC)**



June 11:

**Sunday of All Saints (EO)**

- Check out the [ByziKids June 2020/Summer Sainly Celebration Issue!](#)



June 12:

**Apostles Fast Begins (EO)**



June 18:

**Synaxis of the Saints of North America**

**Father's Day**



June 24:

**The Nativity of St. John the Forerunner**

- Learn how to gather St. John's Wort and [Make St. John's Wort Oil & Salve](#)
- [Make St. John the Baptist Crispy Chocolate Locusts](#)
- And get the [St John the Baptist Coloring Page](#)

June 27:

**St. David of Thessalonika**

- [Make St. David of Thessalonika Almond Bites](#)
- [Print the St. David of Thessalonika Maze](#)



June 29:

**Sts. Peter & Paul**

- Check out the [ByziKids Magazine Archives for the June 2019/Sts. Peter & Paul Issue](#) and:
- [Make a Byzantine Church Shoebox Diorama](#)
- [Learn the Hymn for Sts. Peter & Paul](#)
- [Get the Sts. Peter & Paul Maze Printable](#)

June 30:

**Synaxis of the Apostles**

- Check out the [ByziKids Magazine Archives for the June 2021/Apostles Issue](#) and:
- [Celebrate with 12 Apostle Fruit Compote](#)
- [Read Bios of all 12 and find out how YOU can be an apostle too!](#)



Scan the QR code to see the links for the activities

Check out the [ByziKids Magazine Archives for the June 2021/Apostles Issue](#) and:

[Celebrate with 12 Apostle Fruit Compote—Read Bios of all 12 and find out how YOU can be an apostle too!](#)