



The
Coptic Church
in
Canada's
Capital



Saint Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church of Ottawa

Coptic

Definition

Coptic (from the Greek **Aigyptios**) refers to the indigenous Christians of **Egypt**, who constitute the **largest Christian community in the Middle East.**

Copts are considered the direct descendants of the ancient Egyptians.

Who are the Copts?

“The Copts are an **early Christian** denomination that began in **Alexandria** and survived the rise of Islam in Egypt starting in the 7th century. Today they are a **minority** in **Egypt** but still constitute the **largest** single **Christian community** in the **Middle East**. The Egyptian government estimates about 5 million Copts, but the Coptic Orthodox Church says **15-18 million.**”

The Wall Street Journal (Feb. 16, 2015)



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

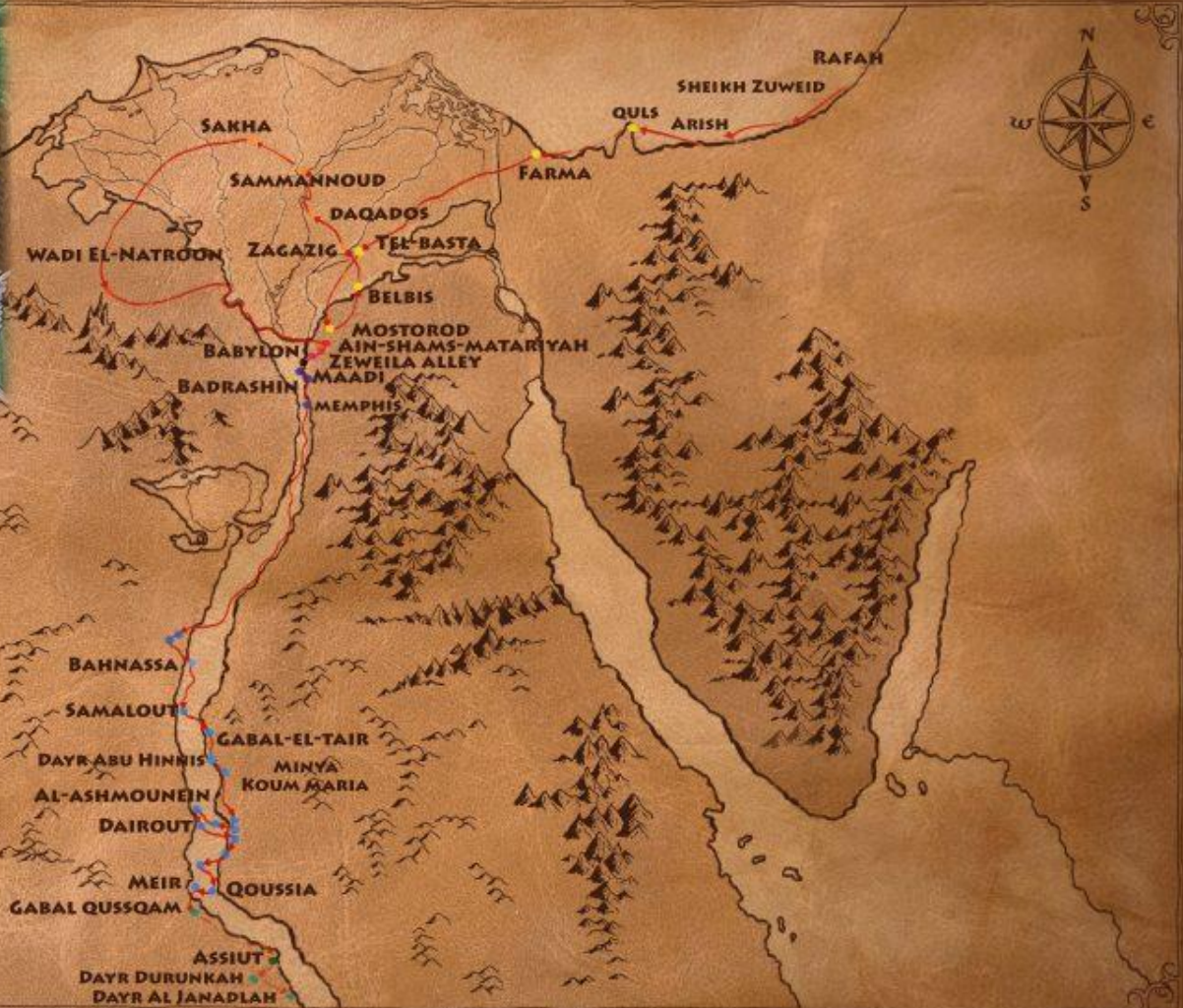
Reliable numbers are hard to find but estimates suggest they make up somewhere between 6% and 18% of the population. Most Copts are Egyptian, although there are significant pockets of them in Syria, Libya, Jordan and other countries, including in the West.

Blessed is Egypt My people

Isaiah 19:25



Holy Family Flight to Egypt
(Matthew chapter 2
& Hosea 11:1 prophecy)



Prophecy about the Coptic Church

In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border.

Isaiah 19:19



Saint Mark the Evangelist
(author of the Gospel of Mark)
Established the Coptic Church
(1st Patriarch of Alexandria)
Martyred in Alexandria in 68 AD

Ancient & Active Church

- The Coptic Church is one of the most ancient Christian Churches.
- Founded in the 1st Century and very much active & alive today.
- The Church **preserves** the original **faith, liturgy & apostolic traditions** passed down for nearly 2,000 years.



*Faith preserved
from Christ
to the Apostles
to us today*

Original 5 Christian Sees



ROME

CONSTANTINOPLE
THE NEW
ROME

ANTIOCH

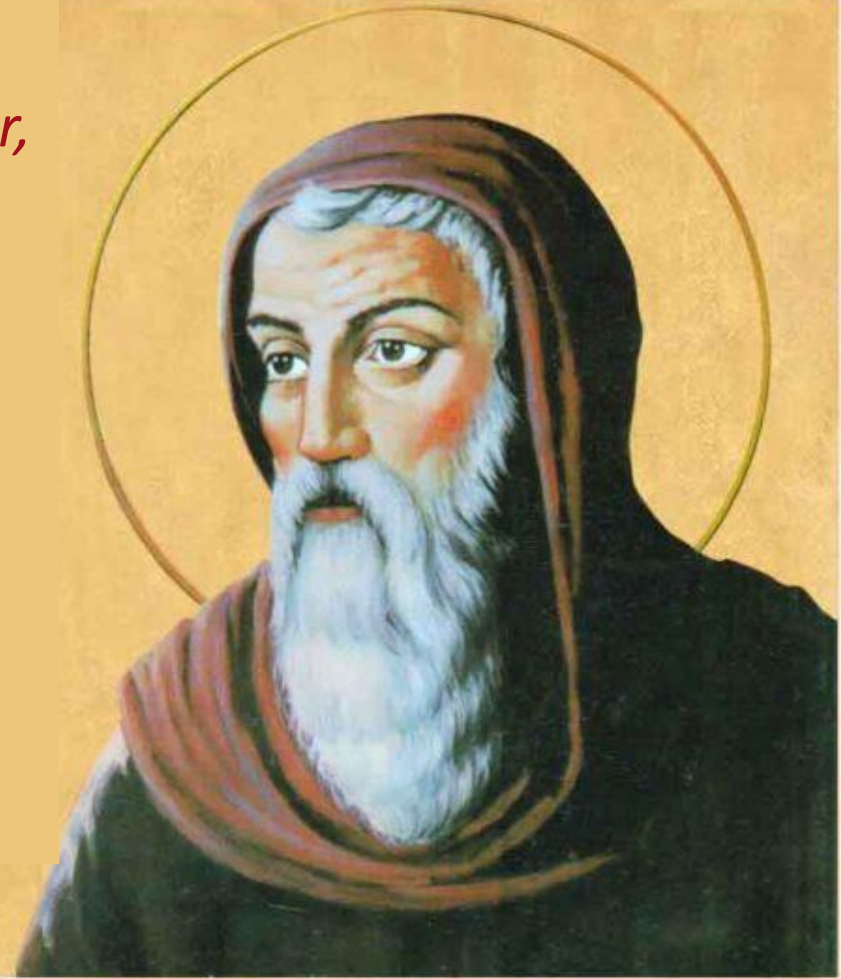
JERUSALEM
THE MOTHER
CHURCH

ALEXANDRIA
THE COPTIC
CHURCH

Christian Creed

Saint Athanasius

- *Major fourth-century Church Father, theologian, and chief defender of Trinitarianism against Arianism*
- *20th Patriarch of the Coptic Church*
- **Credited with the Nicene Creed**



•The Orthodox Creed

We believe in one God, God the Father, the Pantocrator, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages.

Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not created; of one essence with the Father; by whom all things were made.

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried, and on the third day He rose from the dead according to the Scriptures.

Ascended into the heavens; He sits at the right hand of His Father, and He is coming again in His glory to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son, is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And in one holy, catholic (universal), and apostolic Church. We confess one baptism, for the remission of sins.

The people chant the last sentence in a loud voice.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

The Church of Martyrs

- Liturgical Calendar begins with the Era of Martyrs (284 AD), reflecting countless faithful who willingly accepted suffering and gave their lives for Christ.
- This heritage teaches us **faithfulness, peace, forgiveness, and love, even in suffering.**
- Martyrdom for us is not about the past—it is about living daily lives of **sacrifice and service.**



Fr Mina Abood
July 6, 2013



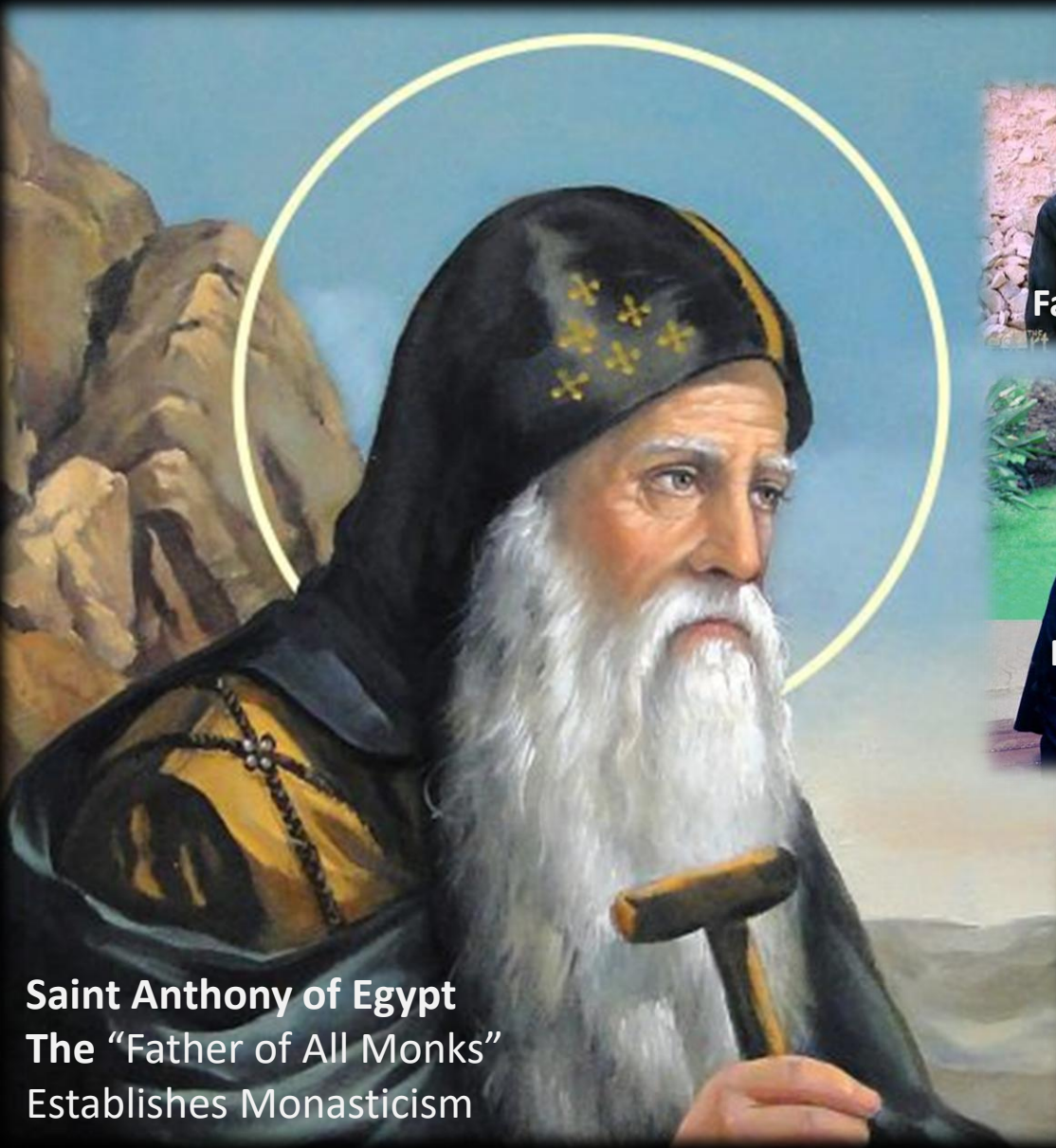
21 Martyrs of Libya
February 15, 2015



Fr Arsanios Wadid
April 7, 2022



Monasticism Alive for Generations



Father Lazarus



Mother Irene



The Monastery of
Saint Macarius the Great
in Wadi el Natrun, Egypt

Saint Anthony of Egypt
The "Father of All Monks"
Establishes Monasticism

Canadian Coptic Monasteries



ST. ANTHONY MONASTERY

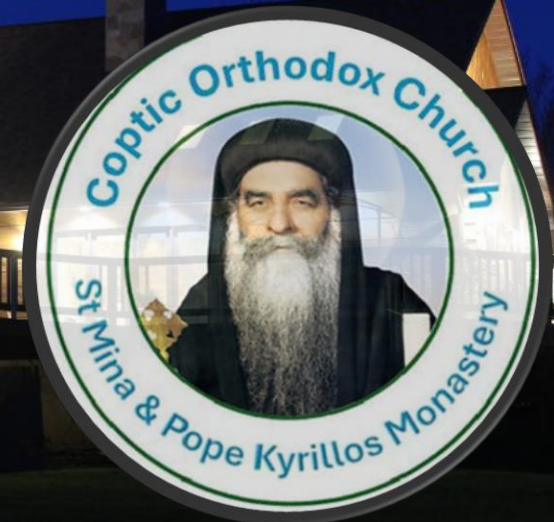
**CANADA'S FIRST COPTIC
ORTHODOX MONASTERY**

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Psalm 34:8

abbaanthony.ca

Saint Anthony's Monastery

Established 2014 in Perth, Ontario



Apostolic Succession

Coptic Patriarchs

1. *Saint Mark*
2. *Pope Anianus*
- ...
20. *Pope Athanasius the Apostolic*
- ...
24. *Pope Cyril the Pillar of Faith*
- ...
116. *Pope Cyril (Kyrillos) VI*
117. *Pope Shenouda III*
118. *Pope Tawadros II*



H.H. Pope Tawadros II
118th Patriarch of Alexandria

2013 Vatican Visit



Pope
Tawadros II

Pope
Francis

39 Coptic Dioceses today outside Egypt

(plus 77 in Egypt)

 <p>Archdiocese of Jerusalem & The Near East Metropolitan Antonius</p>	 <p>Churches of Gulf Countries Bishop Yolios</p>	 <p>Diocese of Marseille & Toulon for French Copts Pope Tawadros II</p>	 <p>Diocese of Milan, Italy Bishop Antonio</p>	 <p>Diocese of South Africa Metropolitan Antonius Morcos</p>	 <p>Diocese of Brazil Bishop Aghason</p>	 <p>Diocese of Bolivia Bishop Youssef</p>	 <p>Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada Bishop Mina</p>	 <p>Diocese of Netherlands Bishop Arsany</p>	 <p>Diocese of Greece Bishop Pavlos</p>
 <p>Diocese of Los Angeles, Southern California & Hawaii Metropolitan Serapion</p>	 <p>Diocese of Southern United States of America Metropolitan Youssef</p>	 <p>Diocese of Birmingham, UK Bishop Missael</p>	 <p>Diocese of Ireland, Scotland & NE England, UK Bishop Antony</p>	 <p>Diocese of Atbara, Omdurman & North Sudan Bishop Sarabamon</p>	 <p>Diocese of French Switzerland & South France Bishop Louka</p>	 <p>Diocese of South Germany Bishop Discoros</p>	 <p>Diocese of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland & West Virginia Bishop Karas</p>	 <p>Diocese of Paris & North France Bishop Marc</p>	 <p>Diocese of North, South Carolina & Kentucky Bishop Peter</p>
 <p>Diocese of Khartoum & South Sudan Bishop Elia</p>	 <p>Diocese of Turin and Rome, Italy Bishop Barnaba</p>	 <p>Diocese of North Germany Bishop Demian</p>	 <p>Churches of Nairobi, Kenya Bishop Boules</p>	 <p>Diocese of Melbourne, Australia Pope Tawadros II</p>	 <p>Diocese of Ohio, Michigan & Indiana Bishop Saraphim</p>	 <p>Diocese of Hungary, Romania, Czech, Slovenia & Poland Bishop Giovanni</p>	 <p>Diocese of Ottawa, Montreal & Eastern Canada Bishop Boules</p>	 <p>Archdiocese of Toronto & Middle Canada Pope Tawadros II</p>	 <p>Archdiocese of New Jersey & North America Bishop Gabriel</p>
 <p>Diocese of London, UK Bishop Angalos</p>	 <p>Diocese of New York & New England Bishop David</p>	 <p>Diocese of Austria & the German Districts of Switzerland Bishop Gabriel</p>	 <p>Diocese of Sydney, Australia Bishop Daniel</p>	 <p>Diocese of Scandinavia Bishop Abakir</p>	 <p>Diocese of Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe & Malawi Bishop Joseph</p>	 <p>Churches of East Asia Bishop Rwis</p>	 <p>Archdiocese of Northern California & Western USA Pope Tawadros II</p>	 <p>Churches of Cyprus H.H. Pope Tawadros II</p>	

Coptic Canada & Saint Mary's Ottawa

Coptic Community formed in Canada

- **1964** – Saint Mark's, Toronto
(1st Coptic Community in Canada)

Saint Mary's Ottawa

(1st Coptic Community in Ottawa)

- **1973** – Saint Mary's Registered
- **1989** – Saint Mary's Church Building
(by the Late, H.H. Pope Shenouda III)
- **2005** – Saint Mary's Daycare Building
- **2014** – H.H. Pope Tawadros II Visit
- **2025** – Saint Mary Community Centre

**H.H. Pope
Tawadros II**
Toronto (GTA)



H.G. Bishop Mina
Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver
& Western Canada (est. 2013)

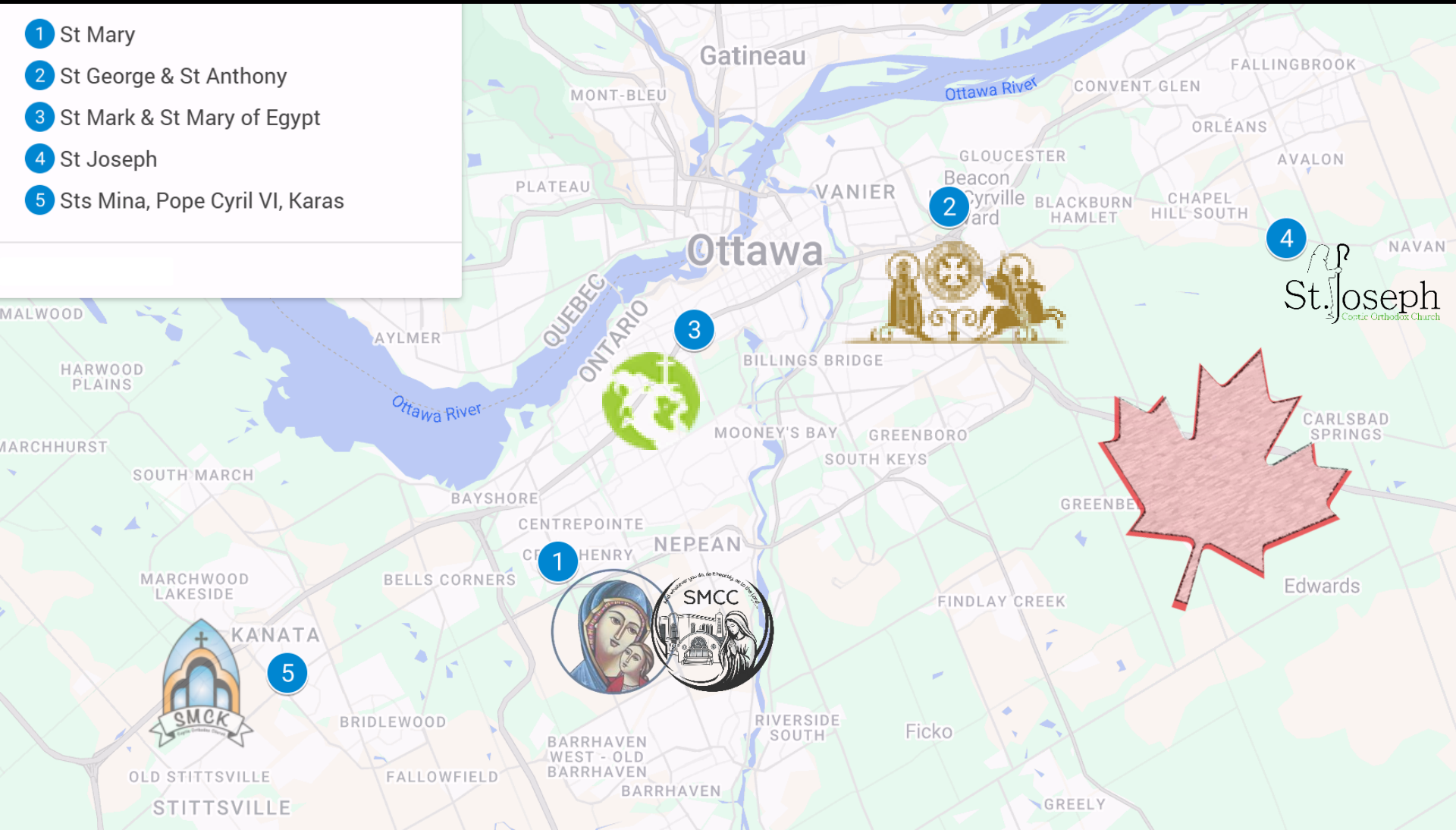


H.G. Bishop Boules
Diocese of Ottawa, Montréal
& Eastern Canada (est. 2019)



5 Coptic Churches in Ottawa

- 1 St Mary
- 2 St George & St Anthony
- 3 St Mark & St Mary of Egypt
- 4 St Joseph
- 5 Sts Mina, Pope Cyril VI, Karas



St. Joseph
Coptic Orthodox Church



Some of our Coptic Saints

“since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1)



All Called
Carry Cross
and follow
Christ ...

Click on the icons above to find out more, courtesy of the Canadian Coptic Centre - visit cccsundayschool.com

Our Beloved Mothers ...



1

Natural Mother

Spiritual Mother
(The Church)

2



3

Mother Mary
(Maternal
Role Model)

Saint Mary's Apparition

Our Lord's Mother Visits Egypt

By Pearl Zaki

When Millions saw Mary

By Francis Johnston



Rejoice in God's Glory!

OUR
LORD'S
MOTHER

VISITS
EGYPT
IN 1968 & 1969

By PEARL ZAKI

*When Millions
saw Mary*



by FRANCIS JOHNSTON

An account of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Coptic Orthodox Church of St. Mary in Zeitoun, Cairo (pictured above), as seen nightly by crowds of up to 250,000 Christians, Jews, Moslems and unbelievers, from 2 April 1968 until 29 May 1971.

An account of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Coptic Orthodox Church of Saint Mary in Zeitoun, Cairo, as seen nightly by crowds of up to 250,000 Christians, Jews, Muslims and unbelievers, from April 2 1968 until May 29 1971.

Active Canadians

Copts *are* Proud Egyptian Christians *and* Active Canadians

- we are **deeply integrated** into **Canadian** society.



Members *of our* community serve *in a variety of* positions *including:*

- Medicine *and* healthcare
- Engineering *and* technology
- Education *and* academia
- Public service *and* legal
- Construction *and* skilled trades
- Business *and* entrepreneurship

*As each one has received a
gift, minister it to one
another, as good stewards
of the manifold grace of God.
1 Peter 4:10*

***We are grateful to Canada and committed to
being productive, loyal, and contributing citizens.***

Coptic Christianity

- **Biblical**
- **Apostolic**
founded by St Mark the Apostle
- **Defending the Christian Faith**
against false teachings
- **Persecuted yet Joyful in the Lord**
- **Established in Alexandria (Egypt)**
and Serving throughout the entire World
- **Actively Serving in our beloved Canada**
- **Rich in History, Saints, Service, Teachings, Tradition**
- **Traditional yet Modern**



Presentation available here:
audio.stmary-ottawa.org/sermons/2026/SMO-2026-04-15-Coptic-Canada.pdf



Thank you!



**Saint Mary's Coptic Church
Ottawa, Canada**