



Named after Hator or Hatho, the goddess of love and beauty, because during this month the lands become lush and green.

Gregorian Calendar equivalent:
November 10 to December 9



The blessed month of Hathor is the third Coptic month in the Coptic calendar. It begins in November and continues through the first nine days of December. During this holy month, the church prays using the common rite and mentions the waters of the rivers.

The second half of the month is the beginning of the Nativity Fast. The month of Hathor is rich with the commemoration of many saints and martyrs who shed their blood for clinging to their God and defending their faith and their Church.

We will take this opportunity to mention a few of these saints:

On the eleventh day of the blessed month of Hathor, we commemorate the departure of the righteous Anna, the mother of our Lady, the holy Virgin St. Mary, the Mother of God.

St. Anna was one of three daughters to a father named Mathan.

Her mother's name was Mariam. St. Anna had no children and she prayed to God to grant her a child. God blessed her with a daughter who delighted her mother's eyes and all the eyes of mankind. She was the Virgin St. Mary, the Mother of God.





On the fifteenth day of the blessed month of Hathor, we commemorate the martyrdom of St. Menas (Mina), the wonder worker.

His father Eudoxius was a governor. His mother's name was Euphemia. They had no children. One day Euphemia went to church, it was the festival of St. Mary at Attrib. When she saw the children, she wept before the icon of St. Mary. She asked her to intercede to God to grant her a son. She heard a voice from the icon saying, "Amen." The Lord blessed them with this Saint and they called him Mina, from the letters of the word "Amen." His parents raised him in a Christian manner.



He was placed in his father's position, but he did not forsake his worship of God. When Diocletian ordered the worship of idols, the saint went to the desert where he stayed and worshipped God. Later, he returned to the city where he was a governor and confessed the name of the Lord. They tried to dissuade him, but he did not change his mind. The governor ordered his head to be cut off, his body to be cast into fire and his ashes to be scattered in the wind. The body remained in the fire three days and three nights but it was not damaged. His sister gave the soldiers much money to take the body to Alexandria as her brother had asked her. On the trip, sea beasts came out of the water and attacked the passengers. They were all frightened. The saint's sister prayed to the Lord and fire went out from St. Mina's body and burned the beasts. The people of Alexandria and the Patriarch went to receive the sacred body of St. Mina. They wrapped it in expensive shrouds and placed it in the church. When the time of persecution ended, the Lord's command was to place St. Mina's body on a camel and take it to where He will show them. The people followed the camel as it arrived at a place called Lake Bayad in Marriot. They placed it in a grave in a beautiful garden and many miracles happened through it. After a while, the governor decided to take St. Mina's body with him while fighting the Barbarians. When he returned victoriously, he wanted to take the body with him to Alexandria, but God's will did not permit him. He then returned it to its place. As time passed, no one knew where the body was buried. When the Lord wanted to show the location of St. Mina's body, He allowed some miracles to happen in that place. When the body was found, the Emperor sent men and money and built a church in that place. When the



Arabs came to Egypt, some of them attacked the city and the church was destroyed. Later on, Pope Kyrillos the sixth built a large monastery in this area of Marriot in the name of St. Mina.

On the twenty-second day of the blessed month of Hathor, we commemorate the martyrdom of Saints Cosmos and Damian, their brothers Anthimus, Londius and Abrabius and their mother Theodata.



Their mother feared God and was merciful. She became a widow while her children were still young. She taught them the fear of God. Cosmos and Damian studied medicine and treated the sick free of charge. Their brothers went to the desert and became monks. Cosmos and Damian were severely tortured by Diocletian who commanded them to worship the idols, but they refused. He brought the rest of the family and asked them to offer incense to the idols and when they refused, he severely

tortured them as well, but they remained unharmed. The governor sent them to the Emperor who also tortured them. But the mother rebuked him and encouraged her sons. He ordered their heads to be cut off and they all received the crowns of martyrdom. Many churches were built in the name of these saints.

On the twenty-fifth day of the blessed month of Hathor, we commemorate the martyrdom of St. Marcurius, known as the saint with the two swords (Abu-Saifein).

He was born in Rome of Christian parents and they called him Philopater, "Lover of the Father." He served in the army. When the Barbarians rose up against Rome, the Emperor was terrified, but Marcurius assured him that the Lord will grant them victory. Then, an angel appeared to Marcurius and handed him a sword and asked him to remember the Lord upon his victorious return. When the



Emperor returned after conquering his enemies, he asked Marcurius to offer incense to the idols, but he refused. The Emperor became angry and sent him to Caesarea where they cut off his head.