



Particular to the genius of wind, because the storms and wind occur much during this month. It is the month in which the summer heat begins.

Gregorian Calendar equivalent:
February 8 to March 9



Rachel and Benjamin, two friends from the Church, were having a long friendly discussion. Both of them could not reach an agreement and decided to ask Abouna about the Coptic year and its months. So both of them ran to find Abouna and to ask him, they kissed the cross and his hand and said, "Abouna, Abouna." Both said it at the same time.



Abouna: Hi Rachel, hi Ben, how are you?

Rachel & Ben: Fine, thank you Abouna, would you please tell us about our Coptic Year? Both said impatiently!

Abouna: Okay, okay. Let me start with our Lord Jesus Christ. You know that His birth marked the first year of the calendar we are following, which now is 2005 A.D. I am sure that all of you read about the persecution, and the troubles all the disciples went through, followed by all the Christian believers and the saints, who wrote our Church history by their blood and through their sufferings.





Ben: Abouna, what does this have to do with the Coptic year?
Abouna: Relax Ben, I will explain it to you. After a long period of persecution, Abouna continued, which lasted for hundreds of years, a very tough Emperor called Diocletian reigned and he was the worst one persecuting all the Christian believers.

Rachel: When was that? Do you remember?

Abouna: I remember the year very well Rachel, it was 284 A.D. when this Emperor reigned and started to torture and kill anyone who believed in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ben: Still I do not understand Abouna, what does this have to do with the Coptic year?

Abouna: Ben, Ben, Ben, my lovely son listen, our holy fathers of the Church decided to make the year 284 A.D. the first year for our Coptic calendar, so that they:



+Honor our martyrs.

+Mark this period of sufferings and persecutions.

+Count every effort done by our struggling Church to preserve our fathers' faith and to deliver to us their original belief, their tribulations, and their victory over the evil powers. Now we are in the year 1721 A.D. in our Coptic calendar.

With a proud tone, Rachel asked, "what are the months of our Coptic year?"

Abouna: There are 13 months; Thoout, Paope, Hathor, Koiahk, Tobe, Meshir, Paremhotep, Parmoute, Pashons, Paone, Epep, Mesore and the Little Month.

Ben: When does our Church celebrate the beginning of our Coptic calendar?

Abouna: Our church celebrates the beginning of the Coptic year during the Nayrouz Feast which is September 11th of every year.

Rachel: Tell us more about our Coptic year, please Abouna.

Abouna: That will be a long story, but let me pick one of the months. Let us talk about the month of Meshir (Amshir).





Meshir is the month of howling winds and sand storms. It is therefore named after the ancient Egyptian god of winds, Meshir. It is also the month that signals the end of winter.

Meshir, the Egyptians say, comes in tens. Ten hot days, preceded by ten cold days or vice versa, or ten windy days, followed by ten pleasant days with clear skies.



There is Arabic saying, “Amshir abul-za’abib al-kathir, yakhud al-agouza we yetir.” which means “Meshir, the father of many winds takes the old woman and flies off.”

During this month, our Church celebrates one of the important feasts, which is the Feast of presenting our Lord Jesus Christ into the temple after 40 days of His blessed birth. Also we celebrate:

- + The Departure of the Great St. Anba Paul, the first hermit.
- + The Martyrdom of St. James the Apostle, the son of Alphaeus.
- + The Departure of St. Severus, the Patriarch of Antioch.
- + The Martyrdom of St. Onesimus, the Disciple of St. Paul.
- + The Appearance of the Head of St. John the Baptist.
- + Many more commemorations and celebrations which you can read about them in the Synaxarium.

Ben & Rachel: This is very interesting Abouna, we have to hear more about our Coptic Calendar and its celebrations.

Abouna: Sure we will talk about it more in the future “*If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this*” (James 4:15).

Submitted by:
St. George, Daytona Beach FL