



Named after Yee-pee or Ha-pee, the god of the Nile or of Thebes, who is also the god of vegetation, because in this month the face of the earth becomes green with vegetation.

Gregorian Calendar equivalent:
October 11 to November 9



There are several important saints whom we commemorate during the month of Paope. On the 12th day of the blessed month of Paope, we commemorate the departure of Abba Demetrius the First, the twelfth Pope of Alexandria on this day of the year 224 A.D.

It was he who established the reckoning of the Epacts, by which the dates of fasting were determined on a fixed basis. The Christians used to fast the holy forty days right after the Epiphany, as the Lord Christ fasted after His baptism. Then they fasted the Passion Week separately. The Christians used to celebrate the Holy Feast of the Resurrection on the 14th of Nissan (April) and that meant they celebrated with the Jews not recognizing that Christian Passover was to be in memory of the Resurrection of the Lord Christ which was after the Mosaic Passover. Therefore, Pope Demetrius established a fixed basis for fasts and Christian holy days. He joined the Holy Fast to the Passion Week. He wrote in respect to Agabilus, Bishop of Jerusalem, to Maximus, the Patriarch of Antioch, to the Patriarch of Rome and to others. All approved of it and continued to follow his rules up until the present, with the exception of the Church of Rome which deviated from that and followed, since the sixteenth century, the Gregorian calendar. To the Popes of



the Coptic Church was the prime credit in determining the Holy Feast of the Resurrection Day. They thus sent their Feast messages all over the world, so that Christians would celebrate on the same day forming a universal joy.

How lucky we are to be part of such a wonderful Church. A Church which paved the way for everyone to worship our Heavenly Father. There are many reasons for everything we do in our Church. Although it is easy to get bogged down with the rituals, knowing their reasoning is a step closer to understanding our wondrous Church and a step closer to a deeper understanding and relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ. In an ever growing world of casual t-shirts and jeans, it is comforting to know that our rituals and rights come from a long and rich past.



How was St. Demetrius chosen to be the 12th Pope of Alexandria?

Pope Yulianus, the 11th Pope of Alexandria, received a vision from God in his sleep that the man who came with grapes the following day would be the next Pope. St. Demetrius came the next day with the grapes and did indeed become the next Pope.

Submitted by:
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