



Named after the god Amso or Khem, who is a form of the God Amoun-ru, the god of Thebes in Upper Egypt; he is the god of the growth of nature because much rain falls during this month.

Gregorian Calendar equivalent:
January 9 to February 7



The blessed month of Tobe is the fifth Coptic month in the Coptic calendar. It begins in January and continues through the first seven days of February. During this holy month, the church celebrates one major Lord feast and two minor Lord feasts.

Major Feast: *Holy Epiphany - Tobe 11*

Minor Feasts: *The Circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ – Tobe 6*
The Miracle at the Wedding in Cana – Tobe 13

The month of Tobe is rich with the commemoration of many saints and martyrs. We will take this opportunity to mention a few of them:



On the twelfth day of the blessed month of Tobe, we commemorate our great defender, Archangel Michael.

Archangel Michael is the head of the heavenly host, the intercessor for the human race, and the faithful steward. He is described in the Holy Bible as “one of the chief princes” (Dan 10:13) of Heaven, leading the powers and defenders of Heaven against the powers of the devil and his followers.

On the thirteenth day of the blessed month of Tobe, we commemorate the martyrdom of St. Demiana.

St. Demiana’s father, Mark, was a governor of an area in Egypt and a Christian. At the age of one, St. Demiana was taken to a church within



monastery where her parents lit candles and prayed that God would bless their only daughter. At the age of fifteen, St. Demiana told her parents that she had consecrated herself to Christ and she asked her father to build a house where she could worship God with her friends. She lived in it with forty other virgins. They spent their time reading the Holy Scripture and in worship. Shortly after, Emperor Diocletian sent for Mark, St. Demiana's father and ordered him to worship the idols. He refused at first and the Emperor got angry. In fear of the Emperor's anger, Mark obeyed his order. When St. Demiana heard what happened, she shamed her father for renouncing his Christianity. Her father was heartbroken and wept bitterly. In haste, he went to Diocletian and confessed the Lord Christ. When the Emperor could not convince him with threats and promises, he ordered him beheaded. Diocletian then tried to force St. Demiana into renouncing her faith. When she refused, Diocletian ordered the deaths of St. Demiana and the forty virgins who lived with her. They gladly died for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and were granted crowns of martyrdom.



On the sixteenth day of the blessed month of Tobe, we commemorate the departure of St. John IV, 48th Pope of Alexandria.



In the year 768 A.D., Fr. John was ordained as the 48th Pope of Alexandria. He guided his flock well and built many churches. Pope John was always teaching the people to not just come to Church and pray in the Christian faith but to actually live in the Christian faith. Once there was a famine in Egypt and grain and all other food were in very short supply. The little food that was available was so expensive that the poor could not afford to buy. Pope John ordered that the money of the Church be used to feed the poor and food was offered to all people, regardless of their faith.

Pope John sat on the throne for twenty-three years as an example to all people of charity, love, and devotion to the Lord. St. John IV departed on this day in the year 792 A.D.

On the twenty-second day of the blessed month of Tobe, we commemorate the departure of St. Anthony the Great.

St. Anthony the Great was born in Egypt in 251 A.D. and decided at a very young age to lead a solitary life worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ. He fought the devil many times by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ as he lived alone in the desert. For twenty years St. Anthony struggled against the harshness of the desert, against Satan, and even against his own human weaknesses.

He became a model for all those who would lead a monastic life and became the father of monasticism. St. Anthony departed in the year 355 A.D.

