



CHURCH VESSELS

SUNDAY 6TH MARCH 2011

Before talking through each vessel try to see if your kids first know the vessels and any information regarding them.

The Coptic Orthodox Church carries many symbols in its prayers and rituals. Each instrument used in the church has a meaning and is intended to help us to come closer to God during our prayers. The church attempts to make prayer and worship a meaningful reminder of things that happened in the Bible and an atmosphere mimicking the worship in heaven in front of the throne of God.

Service Vessels

The service vessels are used in the Divine Liturgy they are sanctified for the services by the Bishop or the Pope's prayers (1 Timothy 4:5) and the Holy Myroon. The Church recognised the need to sanctify them as the Lord ordered Moses to sanctify the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the Table, the Sacrifice Altar, the Vessels, and all Priests' clothes to be holy for the ritual services and everyone who touched them became holy and sanctified for the services (Exodus 30:29 & Leviticus 8:30).

The Throne (Ark)

- A wooden square box, where the chalice sits, on top of the Altar
- It is called the Throne because the Blood of Christ "sits" in it
- It is called the Ark because the Blood with gives life to who ever drinks from it, is represented by the pot of Manna which was in the Ark of covenant and was a symbol of the true Body of Christ
- It is also known as the tabernacle because it looks like the tabernacle of the Old Testament which contained portions of the manna.



Paten and Chalice:

- In which the orbana and wine are placed during the mysterious service of the Divine Liturgy and they are converted by the power of the Holy Spirit into the True Body and the True Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ in the Last Supper used a **paten and chalice** (Matthew 26:26&27) and following Him the Apostles did the same (1 Corinthians 10:16 &
- The paten, is also used by the church to protect against losing any particles from the Body of Christ
- The Body of Christ is placed in it so it represents: The womb of St. Mary; The Manger and The tomb



The Dome (Star)

- Made of two arches that cross together and form the shape of a cross
- This dome is put on the paten representing the Lord's grave or manger.
- On top of it is a cross referring to the sheltering cherubim, or the star on top of Jesus's manger.
- Represents the star that appeared to the wise men and stopped above the house where Jesus lay



The Spoon (Mysteer)

- To administer the Blood to the believers



The Gospel

- A metal case, wherein a copy of the 4 gospels are placed.
- An icon of St. Mary is usually on one side, and an icon of Cross on the other



The Incense box

- A box where the incense is placed to be used during the liturgy
- It is placed on the Altar



The Censor

- Represents St. Mary
- The upper dome represents heaven
- The lower dome represents the womb of St. Mary
- The coal represents Christ's Humanity
- The fire represents Christ's Divinity
- The incense on top of the coal is the aroma that we received when he represented Himself as a true Sacrifice, and we smelled him, as did His Good Father
- The three chains represent the Trinity, and are united by one chain in the Middle (the unity of the Trinity)



Conclusion:

As a member in the Coptic Orthodox church we should fully understand the meaning of the rites and rituals of the church. We should be aware of all the symbolic meanings of different things in our church. This will help us enjoy prayers in our church and be able to preach and invite others to our church.