

## PROGRAM 5 PILGRIMAGE ST. BISHOY



**14 DAYS (5 NIGHTS CAIRO + 3 NIGHTS NILE CRUISE + 1 NIGHT ST. CATHERINE + 1 NIGHT ALEXANDRIA + 1 NIGHT ASSUIT + 1 NIGHT MONASTERY HOLY VIRGIN MARY)**  
**TOTAL PRICE \$3705.00 INCLUDING AIR**  
**Single supplement \$1000.00**

### Leave Tucson July 3

#### Day 1 – July 4: ARRIVAL TO CAIRO

Arrival to Cairo airport, our representative will meet and assist you before the passport control in the airport. Then you will be transferred by a private A/C car to your hotel. Overnight in Cairo

#### Day 2: July 5 MOSTOROD / MATAREYAH / ZEITOUN / OLD CAIRO / MAADI

Breakfast. A full day dedicated to visit the major stops of the holy family in Cairo starting with:

**MOSTOROD:** only about 7 miles North West of Cairo Mostorod which later received the name Al-Mahmma. 'Al-Mahmma' means '**the Bathing place**' a name given to the town because the Virgin Mary bathed the Christ Child and washed His clothes there. It is worthy of note that, eventually, on their way back to Palestine, the Holy Family stopped once more at Mostorod and, this time, caused a spring to gush from the earth, which still flows forth to the present day. After Mostorod we will start our visit to:

**MATAREYAH / ZEITOUN:** In Matareyah, a tree stands to this day, still regularly visited, called 'Mary's Tree', for the Family is believed to have rested in its shade. Here, too, the Infant Jesus caused water to flow from a spring. He blessed it, drank from it and Mary washed His clothes in it. She poured the washing water on to the ground, and from that spot, a fragrant balsam plant blossomed. Besides the healing and pain-soothing properties of this balm, its essence is used in the preparation of the scents and perfumes of which the holy Chrism is composed. Matareyah has made international headlines in modern times when on April 2, 1968 an apparition of Mary above the cupola of **St. Mary Church in Zeitoun** was witnessed by **thousands of Christians and**



**Muslims alike.** In the afternoon we will visit:

**OLD CAIRO AND MAADI:** Continuing their way southwards, the Holy family passed the Fortress of Babylon at Old Cairo, reaching what is today the modern Cairo suburb of Maadi. In earliest pharaonic times, Maadi was an outlying district of Memphis, the capital of Egypt then.

**Joseph became acquainted with the sailors of the Nile boats and the Holy Family was invited to be taken south to Upper Egypt.** The monks of the Dair al-Muharraq (The Monastery of the Blessed Virgin) assume that the Holy Family could afford the travels because of the gold they received from the Wise Men of the East (Mt. 2:11).

The historic church built upon the spot from which they embarked, also dedicated to the Blessed Mother, is further identified by the denominative, 'Al-Adaweya', the Virgin's Church 'of the Ferry'. (In fact, the name of that now modern suburb, Maadl, derives from the Arabic word, which means 'the crossing point').

The stone steps leading down to the River's bank, and believed to have been used by the Holy Family, are accessible to pilgrims through the Church courtyard.

An event of miraculous importance occurred on Friday the 3rd of the Coptic month of Baramhat - the 12th of March - 1976 A.D. A Holy Bible of unknown origin was carried by the lapping ripples of the Nile to the bank below the Church. It was open to the page of Isaiah 19: 25 declaring:

***"Blessed be Egypt My people"***

The Bible is now behind glass in the Sanctuary of the Church for all to see.

Back to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

### **Day 3: July 6 CAIRO / ASWAN**

Breakfast. We will start our full day visiting the **Egyptian Museum** of antiquities. On display is a rare collection of 5000 years of art the largest most precious collection of Egyptian art in the world. Over 250,000 genuine artifacts are presented, including an exhibit dedicated to the Tutankhamen collection of treasures, gold, and jewelry, as they were enclosed in his tomb for over 3,500 years before it was discovered in the 1920s when his tomb was excavated. We will visit the temples on the Nile Cruise to add to the information you gather at the Museum.

Afternoon. Transfer to Cairo airport and flight to Aswan. Arrival, meet and assist at Aswan airport. Transfer to the Nile cruise, dinner and overnight.

### **Day 4: July 7 ASWAN / EDFU / KOM OMBO**

**Full board.** We will start by visiting Aswan: the High Dam and the Philae temple. Navigation to Kom Ombo. Visit the Temple of Kom Ombo dedicated to the gods Sobek and Haroeris. Continue to Edfu. Upon arrival visit of the Edfu temple dedicated to the god Horus. Cruise to Esna to pass through the lock.

### **Day 5 July 8: ESNA / LUXOR**

**Full board.** Continuing navigation towards Luxor. Visit the Necropolis of Thebes and the West Bank: Valley of the Kings and Queens, funeral temple of Hatshepsut, known as Deir el Bahari, and Colossi of Memnon. After lunch, visit to the temples of Karnak and Luxor.

### **Day 6: July 9 LUXOR / ASSUIT**

Breakfast and disembarkation. Transfer to the city of Assuit , Free afternoon to explore the city and its famous market. Overnight.

### **Day 7: July 10 ASSUIT / MINYA**



Breakfast and visit **the monastery of Dronka** known as the **Virgin Mary Monastery (Deir Dronka)**.



About 10 kilometers from Assuit, situated on the west bank of the Nile is one of the most unusual mountain top monasteries in Egypt, and also the last destination visited by the Holy Family on their journey through Egypt.

From this site they left Egypt for Nazareth. Since that time, monks of the monastery believe that this area has been constantly inhabited by Christians. Indeed, this area of Egypt is now a community of Coptic's

which populate the area around the Monastery.

This Monastery of St. Mary, and within it, the cave Chapel of St. Mary is said to date from the first century. Receiving as many as one million visitors per year, it is said that the Virgin Mary, from time to time, appears in a luminous form within the chapel.

In the afternoon we will start our visit to **The Monastery of Holy Virgin Mary (Deir Al-Muharraq) located at Mount Qosqam**. Originally there was an abandoned house and a water well adjacent to it where the Holy Family rested after it was repaired by St. Joseph. They stayed there for about 185 days. This area was known as "**The Second Jerusalem**".



This dwelling which was blessed by the Lord Himself, became the ancient church of Our Lady and the monastery today with its simple structure has become a place of pilgrimage for generations.

The most important content in the sanctuary is a marble slab where Greek inscription is engraved. According to the Coptic Church tradition, **'the altar'** of The Holy Virgin Mary Church is located "in the midst of the land of Egypt"; this was to fulfill what the Lord has spoken by the prophet, saying:

***"In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD at its border. (Isaiah 19:19)***

The **Ancient Keptower** built in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> century has never been used for protection, as Jesus said it will be forever and secured even though it was built to protect the monks against barbarian fierce raids.

We will view the beautiful icons which never depict the pain and sufferings of the saints nor do they reflect the place of torments or agony of sinners.

We will stay at the Monastery for dinner and overnight with time for prayer and reflection within the walls of this beautiful place..

## **Day 8: July 11 MINYA / CAIRO**

After breakfast we will visit the **Virgin Mary Church of Deir El Garnous** (the later site of the Monastery of Arganos) 4 miles west of Ashnein El Nassara. Outside the western wall of the Church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary a deep well is believed to have provided the Holy Family with the water they needed. The well is still in use today.



We will proceed to the church of St. George at Eshneen El Nasara. There we see another place where the Holy Family hid out.

After the visit of Minya, we will drive back to Cairo. Afternoon, visit to the pyramids of Giza and the sphinx ,the most famous and the last of the original Seven Wonders of the World. Back to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

### Day 9 July 12 CAIRO / SAINT CATHRINE:

Breakfast. Depart Cairo and drive to the Suez Canal. Take the tunnel under the Suez Canal and arrive at the Sinai Peninsula. We visit the springs of Moses, then drive to Saint Catherine's Monastery and check into the Hotel. Built at the foot of Mount Sinai, the monastery was constructed by the Emperor Justinian between 527 AD and 565 AD. It contains priceless works of art and the second largest collection of illustrated manuscripts in the world. The evening is free, dinner and overnight.

### Day 10: July 13 SAINT CATHERINE / CAIRO



Early wake up for those who wish to climb the Mountain of Moses. It is the site where Moses received the stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written. We return to tour Saint Catherine's Monastery. Transfer to Cairo, arrival to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

### DAY 11: July 14 CAIRO / ALEXANDRIA



Breakfast. Depart for **Alexandria**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Egypt and the home of St. **Catherine of Alexandria**. She is revered as one of the **Fourteen Holy Helpers**. We will also visit the Church built over the cave where the **Blessed Virgin Mary** cured **SAINT Mary of Jesus Crucified**. Dinner and overnight.

### Day 12: July 15 ALEXANDRIA / WADI EL NATRUN / JULY 15, 2016 THE FEAST OF SAINT BISHOY!

Breakfast. Following the steps of the holy family we will start our day by the visit of **WADI EL NATROUN**: The holy family arrived at Wadi El-Natroun (Natroun Valley) after crossing the Rosetta branch of the Nile to the western Delta, and heading south into Wadi El-Natroun (then called Al Asqet) in the Western Desert of Egypt. In the earliest decades of Christianity, the desert expanses of Wadi El-Natroun became the site of ascetic settlement and, later, of many monasteries. It is said that Jesus blessed the desert in advance of these future settlements. In 1986 there were about 320 monks occupying the four Wadi El Natrun monasteries.



Today is the Feast of **Saint Bishoy the pleasant, humble, emotionally sensitive servant with a loving heart for the poor and needy**. Because of his humbleness, he used to wash the feet of strangers and visitors without knowing who they were or even looking at their face. For this reason, **Jesus appeared to him posing as a stranger and Saint Bishoy washed His Holy Feet**. He also carried an **Old Man** in the road and later found that He was the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus then promised him that **his body which he kept pure and served through it all the people and needy, will stay without decay because he carried him**. Indeed **Saint Bishoy's body is still without decay to date, and without being preserved chemically, in any way or mummified**.

Today, being the Feast day, his body will be removed from the main church of the monastery amid celebrations in honor of the great Saint. The Bishop will carry out the preparation of the herbs and "henout" to scent the pure body in the midst of prayers, chants, and hymns of the faithful and receive the blessing and intercession of this great Saint.

Return to Cairo, dinner and overnight.

**DAY 13: JULY 16:** Breakfast. Transfer to Cairo Airport for return flight to the USA **with memories to last a lifetime**.

**Included in package:**

Representative to greet you at airport and assist with passport control  
Guide for entire pilgrimage  
Private A/C car  
5 nights 5 Star Hotel overlooking the Pyramids with Breakfast and Dinner  
3 Nights FULL BOARD Cruise Ship  
1 Night St. Catherine; 1 Night Alexandria  
One night Assuit, one night *The Monastery of Holy Virgin Mary* with breakfast and dinner.  
Transportation to the Temples including car, horse and buggy and sail ship.  
Flight from Cairo to Aswan.  
Transportation to all the Monasteries.

**Not included:**

Insurance  
\$25.00 Visa Fee (cash at the airport)

**TOTAL PRICE INCLUDING AIR: \$3,705.00 (1,000.00 single supplement).**

**WE ACCEPT PAY PAL AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS on the Web Site. Checks may be mailed to**

**JMJ MINISTRIES**  
**5317 S. 12<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE**  
**TUCSON, ARIZONA 85706**  
**(520) 573-0065 FAX (520) 573-9606**  
**WWW.JMJMINISTRIES.ORG**

***MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED EVERY DAY.***

***PLEASE PRAY THE ROSARY FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR PILGRIMAGE***

*Mission Statement: JMJ Ministries is committed to providing pilgrimages (not vacations) to benefit our Priests and lay people. This is only possible through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, under the title of **Rosa Mystica**, patroness of Priests and Religious who guide us all the way.*

**PLEASE SEND COPY OF PASSPORT WITH REGISTRATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME (as it appears on your PASSPORT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE AND ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH AREA CODE

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROOMING WITH

***Amount due in full: \$3,705.00***

***EMAIL ADDRESS*** \_\_\_\_\_

***CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS A Booking may be canceled but must be made in writing by either party. Refunds are returned upon the booking of another person to replace the refundable person on this pilgrimage **PRIOR TO LAST 30 DAYS*****

**WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS**

RESPONSIBILITY: JMJ Ministries acts only in the capacity of agents for the Airline and the Land Operator in all matters pertaining to Hotel Accommodations, sightseeing tours and transportation whether by air, railroad, motor coach, motor car, steamship, boat or any other means and, as such, holds no responsibility for any damage(s) from any cause(s) whatsoever. JMJ Ministries will not be responsible for any damage, expense or inconvenience caused by the air, rail, ship, boat or bus arrivals or departures or by any change in schedule or their conditions; baggage or any article belonging to the passenger. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person traveling under our auspices. The concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance, or in the car, limousine or bus of ground transportation operators, or in the premises of hotels, pensions or other

places of accommodation. The passenger contract used by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this tour and/or the passenger. JMJ Ministries is not responsible for any and all funds paid to the airline and/or land operator on behalf of the passenger which are the subject of refund, dispute, insolvency or any other reason whatsoever. **The undersigned will indemnify and hold harmless JMJ Ministries from any and all liability whatsoever, including attorney's fees and costs, from any claims by anyone.**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_