



Jesus Mary and Joseph Ministries

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TUCSON, ARIZONA
(520) 573-0065

WWW.JMJMINISTRIES.ORG

May 2016 Newsletter and President's Page

FINALLY! THE NEW WEB SITE IS UP! There is a little more work to do but it is really nice: www.jmjministries.org.

I know a lot of you have signed up for the newsletter and have been patiently waiting for the current information on the Pilgrimages and especially the Nile Cruises. They are listed on the web site with the PayPal Button to sign up directly on the internet or you can call me at (520) 573-0065 to reserve your vacation. Please share with your friends that would be interested.

By request we are offering special pricing for a minimum of 2 people (not including the air). I can get the air for you; however, a lot of people use frequent flyer miles for their travels. All trips include all expenses as listed on the itinerary from arrival at Cairo until you fly home. You will be on file with the Bureau of Tourism for your entire stay. They will escort you and report your location at all times. It is very safe in Egypt.

Here is the recap: Please see the PDF files on the web site or the pilgrimage information which follows and has more details.

PROGRAM ONE: 8 DAYS (4 NIGHTS CAIRO + 3 NIGHTS NILE CRUISE) \$1,150.00 per person minimum 2 people

Day 1: ARRIVAL TO CAIRO

Arrival to Cairo airport, our representative will meet and assist you before the passport control (you will bring \$25.00 USD per person for visa) in the airport. Then you will be transferred by a private A/C car to your **5 Star Hotel overlooking the Pyramids** for Overnight.

Day 2: CAIRO / WADI EL NATRUN / PYRAMIDS / CAIRO

Breakfast, following the steps of the Holy Family you will start your day with a visit to **WADI EL NATROUN**: You will visit the monastery of the same name. We will return to Cairo to visit 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 3: 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. **MATAREYAH:** 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. You will then visit **Zeitoun** which 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 you 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 which was once the capital of Egypt. You will visit the Church that was built upon the spot from which they embarked where an event of miraculous importance occurred. 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 4: CAIRO / ASWAN

Breakfast, you will start our full day visiting the **Egyptian Museum** of antiquities with your guide and enjoy the explanations that will be useful as you visit the temples while on the Cruise. In the afternoon, you will transfer to the Cairo airport for your flight to Aswan. Arrival, meet and assist at Aswan airport. **Transfer to the Nile cruise, dinner and overnight.**

Day 5: ASWAN / EDFU / KOM OMBO

Full board. You 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 6: ESNA / LUXOR

Full board. Continue 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 7: LUXOR / CAIRO

Breakfast and disembarkation. Transfer to airport for flight to Cairo. Arrival and transfer to hotel, free afternoon. Overnight.

Day 8: CAIRO / ...

Breakfast. Transfer to Cairo Airport for return to USA.

Program 2 ST. CATHERINE AND MT. SINAI \$1,475.00 per person minimum 2 people

10 DAYS (5 NIGHTS CAIRO + 3 NIGHTS NILE CRUISE + 1 NIGHT ST. CATHERINE)

Day 1 thru 7 of Program 1 plus:

Day 8: 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. You will visit the springs of Moses, then drive to Saint Catherine's **Monastery** and check into the Hotel The evening is free, dinner and overnight.

Day 9: 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. You will return to tour Saint Catherine's Monastery. Transfer to Cairo, arrival to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 10: CAIRO / ...

Breakfast. Transfer to Cairo Airport for return flight to USA.

**PROGRAM 3: ADD ONE NIGHT TO PROGRAM 2 TO INCLUDE ALEXANDRIA
\$1,600.00 PER PERSON (2 PEOPLE MINIMUM)**

11 DAYS (5 NIGHTS CAIRO + 3 NIGHTS NILE CRUISE +1 NIGHT ST. CATHERINE + 1 NIGHT ALEXANDRIA)

Day 1 THROUGH 9 OF PROGRAM 2 AND + 1 NIGHT ALEXANDRIA.

DAY 10: CAIRO / ALEXANDRIA

Breakfast. Depart for **Alexandria**, the 2nd 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 11: ALEXANDRIA / CAIRO AIRPORT

Breakfast. Transfer to Cairo Airport for return flight to USA.

PROGRAM 4 NILE CRUISE (program 1) ADDING VISITS TO THE MONASTERIES ENROUTE TO CAIRO (\$1,600.00 PER PERSON MINIMUM 2 PEOPLE)

Day 7: LUXOR / ASSUIT

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

Friday Day 8: 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 is also the last destinations visited by the Holy Family on their journey through Egypt.

You will also visit the cave Chapel of St. Mary that 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 shall 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 6th and 7th 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 transfer by car to the city of Minya for dinner and overnight.

Day 9: 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. Where we will see the place where the Holy Family had to hide out.

After the visit of Minya, we will drive back to Cairo. Arrival to the hotel dinner and overnight.

Day 10: CAIRO / ... Breakfast. Transfer to Cairo Airport. Departure.

These are the four programs with special pricing for the year 2016. There are PDF files on the JMJ Ministries website where you can sign up or you can email or call me for reservations as well. If you want more information please feel free to call (520) 573-0065

Because of many special requests **I put together a pilgrimage to combine all four of the programs making it a pilgrimage with a Priest.** A lot of interest came because of the incorrupt body of **St. Bishoy, a Coptic Saint** who, like St. Christopher, carried Jesus on his shoulder but as the man Jesus. He also washed Jesus feet thinking he was a beggar. Jesus told him his body would never decay because he carried Him. And indeed, Saint Bishoy's body is still without decay to date, and without being preserved chemically in any way, or mummified. On his Feast day, July 15, his body is 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 thousands of visitors who will pilgrim to the monastery before returning him to the main altar for the next year. I have put this pilgrimage together to be there on **July 15, 2016.**

PROGRAM 5 PILGRIMAGE ST. BISHOY



TOTAL PRICE INCLUDING AIR: 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 \$3,705.00 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, Maadi, 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, that 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.

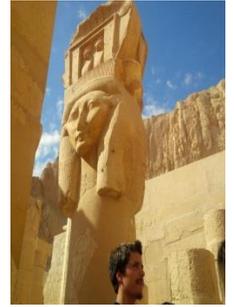
Afternoon, transfer to Cairo airport and flight to Aswan. Arrival, meet and assist at Aswan airport. Transfer to the Nile cruise, dinner and overnight.

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.

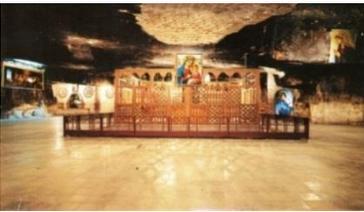


Day 6: July 9 LUXOR / ASSUIT

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 6th and 7th 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, 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. Here we will see another place where the Holy Family had to hide 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 2nd 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 anchoretic settlement and, later, of many monasteries. It is said that Jesus blessed the desert in advance of these future settlements.

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 the 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.

This celebration includes the preparation of the herbs 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 vehicle

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 *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.)

Here are a few updates since the last newsletter:

I honestly believe this past year has been the most miraculous year we have ever had. It was a really good lesson for us to "live in the present moment knowing all that happens is allowed by God". This has brought us through some tumultuous times to bring a greater focus on what Our Lady and St. Joseph really do for us here in the ministry.

We are so blessed to have our benefactors that have played such a big role in this ministry today with all the additions and updates that we have made to provide better service to all.



The ministry has distributed over 1,800 Our Lady Untier of Knots prayer cards **free of charge**. We're pleased to inform you that the reports of miracles are ongoing. We are excited to set the final date for our pilgrimage to visit her

Shrine in Germany as well as the many other places for the Year of Mercy. This itinerary is up on our new web site.

There are new additions on the website including the page that will enable us to accommodate tours all over the world for as little as two people at a very inexpensive price. We can literally accommodate anyone, any place.

Here are the 2016 pilgrimages to date: (we are waiting for two more as soon as we have dates from our Priests).

July 3 through July 18: 14 DAY PILGRIMAGE TO EGYPT FOR THE FEAST OF ST. BISHOY (complete itinerary on newsletter)

August 13 - 28, 2016 Italy and Medjugorje

Spiritual Director Father Raul Ruiz S.D.S.

Visit Rome, St.Benedict, St. Philomena, Padre Pio, Lanciano, Loreto, Padua, Venice, **ROSA MYSTICA**, Sienna, Assisi , and much more.

September 15 through 28, 2016 Year of Mercy / Virgin Mary Untier of Knots

Visit Poland, Czech Republic and Germany. Includes: Warsaw, Czestochowa, Auschwitz, Krakow, Lagiewniki for the Shrine of Divine Mercy, Prague (Infant of Prague), Regensburg and Altoetting (the Black Madonna), Ausgurg (OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS) , Wieskirche (Scourged Jesus cries real tears) and much more.

November 4 through 18, 2016: Egypt, Mt.Sinai and the Holy Land. Travel the footsteps of the Holy Family in Egypt along with our complete Holy Land tour.

These are pending the dates from the Priests:

France, Lourdes, Turin, LaSalette, Lisseux, Tours, St. Joan of Arc
and much more.

Fatima to Rome

A repeated pilgrimage with dates published as soon as Father gives them to me. Tentative plan is late September to early October.

WOW: Longest newsletter and President's page ever; however, it is by the request of so many of you that have signed up for our newsletter for this special information.

Know that you are always in our prayers.

GOD BLESS ALL

GAYLE AND ALL OF US FROM JMJ



The Priests determine the destination and their destination becomes your pilgrimage.