

DORMITION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

The Coptic [calendar](#) has two **feasts** for the Holy Virgin, the 21st of Tuba, the Dormition of the Virgin, and the 16th of Misra, the **Assumption** of the Virgin. The earliest manuscript, which contains a homily on the Assumption of the Virgin, is a papyrus preserved in the [Pierpont](#) Morgan Library.

It probably dates from the seventh century. We have a collection of homilies on the subject attributed to Cyril of Jerusalem; Evode, Pope of Rome; **Theodosius** of Alexandria; **Theophilus** of Alexandria; **Cyril** of Alexandria; Cyriacus of Bahnasa; and Theophilus of Landra, as well as a number of anonymous fragments. This relatively huge literature is from the collections of the libraries of Hamuli (Fayoum), the **White Monastery**, the **Monastery of St. Macarius**, and Edfu.

Such [liturgical books](#) as the **Synaxarion**, the **Antiphonarion (Difnar)**, the ***Psalis***, and the **doxologies** commemorate these two feasts. Several apocryphal books in the Coptic Church mention the Dormition and the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. It is noteworthy that this tradition is also accepted in the other [Oriental](#) churches as well as the Roman Catholic Church.

[GAWDAT GABRA](#)

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