



2015 St. Mark's Festival (Mahragan El Keraza)

*With the prayers of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, the central preparation committee has chosen the 2015 Theme to be:

"HOLD FAST WHAT YOU HAVE, THAT NO ONE MAY TAKE YOUR CROWN." (REV 3:11)

GENERAL INFORMATION

1) WHAT IS THE ST. MARK'S FESTIVAL?

+ It is a Summer Spiritual Competition that originated in the motherland of Egypt under the guidance of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III. Today, Coptic Orthodox churches from all over the world participate in the competition in many different languages.

+ Children and youth will study various **spiritual subjects**, enjoy **sports and other activities**, as well as have a chance to be involved in various **competitions** over the summer.

2) WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

+ The **ultimate goal** is for all participants to **grow in his or her relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ through prayer, fellowship, and reading the Holy Scriptures.**

+ There are **many spiritual benefits** to the children and youth who participate – they will gain knowledge about:

- **The Bible through Bible Study**
- **The Lives of the Saints**
- **The Coptic Church's History and Rituals**
- **The Coptic Hymns and Coptic Language**

+ Children and youth will enjoy a **summer of fellowship and fun with their friends in God's house.** They will **enjoy time with old friends while making new friends.**

3) WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

+ **Kindergarten through College age.** Children must have completed Kindergarten.

4) WHEN IS IT?

+ **June 10 - August 15, 2015**

+ Practice sessions will be held **every Wednesday and Friday, from 7:00-9:30pm.**



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PRACTICE SCHEDULE

2015 St. Mark's Festival (Mahragan El Keraza)					
June 10 - August 15, 2015					
Practice Schedule for Wednesdays and Fridays					
	7:00 - 7:40pm	7:40 - 7:50pm	7:50 - 8:30pm	8:30 - 9:00pm	9:00 - 9:30pm
	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES			OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES	
KG (Yellow)	Bible/ Memorization	BREAK	Hymns/Coptic	GAMES	MOVIE
1st-2nd (Red)	Bible/ Memorization	BREAK	Hymns/Coptic	GAMES	MOVIE
3rd-5th (Blue)	Bible/ Memorization	BREAK	Hymns/Coptic	SPORTS	SPORTS
Middle School (Green)	Bible/ Memorization	BREAK	Hymns/Coptic	SPORTS	SPORTS
High School (Brown)	Bible/ Memorization	BREAK	Hymns/Coptic	SPORTS	SPORTS



2015 St. Mark's Festival (Mahragan El Keraza) RULES

"He who heeds instruction and correction is (not only himself) in the way of life (but also) is a way of life for others." (Proverbs 10:17)

Parents, please read these rules very carefully and then review them with your children so that they know what is expected of them as well. Please feel free to ask any questions if you need clarification regarding these rules. These rules will be strictly enforced so that all participants may fully benefit and enjoy this spiritual competition.

1) PARENT RULES:

- **Drop-Off & Pick-Up:** For children in **Kindergarten through 8th grade**, parents must come inside the church building to drop-off and pick-up their children each day. For your child's safety, please make sure you take your child to their classroom and be sure that your child is with his/her servant before you leave. Please know the name of the servant with whom you have left your child that day.
- **Sign-In & Sign-Out:** For children in **Kindergarten through 8th grade**, parents must sign-in and sign-out their children each day on the attendance sheets located at the table downstairs. High school and College students may sign themselves in and out.
- **Supervision:** As noted, practice sessions are Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:00pm - 9:30pm.
*****Please be aware that servants will NOT be responsible for supervising children BEFORE 7:00pm or AFTER 9:30pm. All children will be released from activities and will be UNSUPERVISED after 9:30pm. Parents are responsible for their children after 9:30pm.***** If your child will not participate in any sports or other optional activities, your child will need to be picked up before 9:30pm (please see practice schedule for exact times). For your child's safety, please pick up your children on time.
- **Parking:** Please DO NOT PARK in the Basketball area on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

2) BEHAVIOR:

- Children **must be obedient and speak respectfully to each other and to all servants.**
- **NO** cheating, fighting, inappropriate language, or inappropriate behavior.
- **Behavior Notices** will be given to parents whose children are refusing to follow rules and are not allowing others to enjoy their time. Behavior notices will be one way for servants to keep parents informed about their children so that they can address these issues at home. Parents and servants must work together to ensure the success of the program.
- **After 3 Behavior Notices, parents will be required to attend the next practice session or event with their child or the child will not be able to attend that practice session or event.**
- To avoid distracting others and disrupting the class, **NO electronic devices** of any kind (cell phones, ipads, ipods, etc.) should be used in the classroom while servants are holding practice sessions.

3) PARTICIPATION:

- **Required activities** for ALL participants: Bible Study/Memorization, Hymns/Coptic, and Bible Exam.
- **Optional activities** for ALL participants: Sports and Movie/Indoor Games (younger ages).
- To be eligible to participate in any final sports competition, participants must **attend 80% of all practice sessions (4 absences) and obtain a passing score on the Bible Exam.**

4) DRESS CODE:

- Please remember you are in **God's House**. Please **avoid the following:** above the knee shorts, skirts, or dresses, sleeveless shirts, low-cut shirts, or tight-fitting clothing.
- Children should wear their **Mahragan El Keraza t-shirt to each practice session and event.**

5) FOOD & DRINKS:

- Children are required to bring a snack and water bottle **labeled** with their first and last names to each practice session.



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REGISTRATION FORM **(Please complete one form per child.)**

- + **Registration Fee: \$30 per child (\$25 for siblings).**
- + **Due Date: May 24, 2015. SORRY, NO REGISTRATION ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 24.**
- + **Please return all forms and exact cash or check payment to your child's Sunday School servant.**
- + **Please submit forms and payment at the same time.**

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION: (for participants under 18 years old)

Parent's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Parent's Phone #1: _____ Parent's Phone #2: _____

Non-Parent Emergency Contact Name (First & Last): _____

Non-Parent Emergency Contact Phone Number: _____

PARTICIPANT'S INFORMATION:

Participant's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Grade (during 2014-2015 school year): _____

Please check activities that you would like to participate in (CHOOSE ONLY 2 SPORTS):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bible/Memorization (Required) | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer (3 rd Grade – College) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hymns/Coptic (Required) | <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball (3 rd Grade – College) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie (KG - 2 nd Grade) | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball (3 rd Grade – College) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Games (KG - 2 nd Grade) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ping Pong (3 rd Grade – College) |

Please check shirt size (CHOOSE ONLY 1 SIZE). Sorry no exchanges after order is placed:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth X-Small (Size 2-4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Small | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult X-Large |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Small (Size 6-8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medium | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult 2X-Large |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Medium (Size 10-12) | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Large | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Large (Size 14-16) | | |

My child has permission to participate in the 2015 St. Mark's Festival and all related activities. I hereby give consent to St. Philopateer Coptic Orthodox Church, if deemed necessary, to obtain medical care for my child in the event of an emergency and I cannot be contacted. I agree to accept the cost of any emergency treatment by medical personnel or facility, including the cost of any related transportation. Also, I hereby give permission to St. Philopateer to transport my child to and from any off-site event or activity related to this program. I will assume all liability for their participation, including any injury that may result during travel or program activities. In addition, I understand and agree to the following: 1) My child may be photographed or videotaped during normal program activities, 2) St. Philopateer cannot be responsible for lost or broken items, and 3) Failing to follow these rules and safety regulations may result in my child being asked to not participate in the program.

Parent's/Guardian's First Name (Print): _____ **Last Name (Print):** _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____