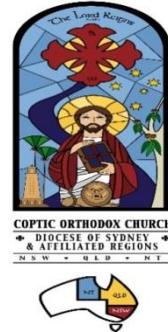


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Thursday 9th. January, 2025
Our Ref: B.D.02.02.23.25
No. of Pages: 2
Bishop’s Office



The Coptic Orthodox Church- See of Saint Mark- Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions. Sermon about:” How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit? “in Saint Steven Coptic Orthodox Church, Mount Druitt, Sydney, NSW, Australia, dated Thursday 9th January 2025 on the occasion of praying the Divine Liturgy in this blessed church for the occasion of the Martyrdom of Saint Stevent the first Martyr.

To the priests, deacons, servants, congregation, and all, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, through the intercessions of Saint Mary, the supplications of all the saints and the prayers of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II.

By the grace of God, we are going to share some points about the topic above as follows:

1= To be great in the sight of God:

To be great in the sight of God, by not being controlled by any external factors, John the Baptist is a good example for this, as mentioned in *Luke 1:15:” for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.”*

2= Serving others in all humility:

By having the spirit of serving others, Saint Mary visited Saint Elizabeth and stayed with her three months, when Saint Elizabeth heard the greetings of Saint Mary, She was filled with the Holy Spirit, as mentioned in *Luke 1: 41:” When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit”.*

3= Wait the promise of God with total faith:

when we wait in faith the fulfillment of the Word of God, after the birth of John the Baptist, the mouth of Zechariah was opened and he was filled with the Holy Spirit, as mentioned in *Luke 1:67:” His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied”.*

4= When we pray with all our hearts:

When we pray with all our hearts to God, not only in the good times, but also in the time of difficulties, when Saint Peter and Saint John were arrested in Jerusalem, Saint Peter was preaching not in the temple but also those who were investigating him and John as we read in Acts 4:31:” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were, all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly”.

5= when we obey the word of God and take the blessing of the priesthood:

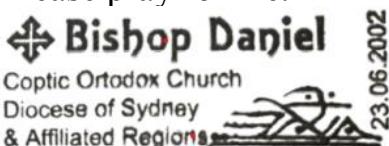
When we take the blessings of the priesthood and the Sacraments of the Church and be a disciples to the leaders of the church, this is what happened when Soul met with Ananias, in Damascus, as we read in *Acts 9: 17-19:*¹⁷ *Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.*

6= When we endure persecution for Christ’s sake:

We can be filled with the Holy Spirit and Joy as well when we endure the persecution, in Pisidian Antioch Saint Paul, and Saint Barnaba and their companions were subjected to persecution and they left to Iconium and the disciples were filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit, as we read in *Acts 13: 50-52:*⁵⁰ *But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and came to Iconium.⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

Glory be to God as always.

Please pray for me.



+ Bishop Daniel

By the Grace of God,
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church Sydney Diocese and its Affiliated Regions,
Australia