

Orthodox Christian Campus Ministries (OCCM)

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OCCM Mission - EGYPT 2023

About Our Mission Work

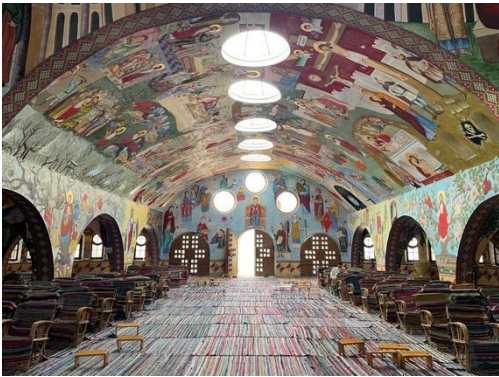


Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

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Our OCCM Mission trip to Egypt will be dedicated to service in the city of Tanta and at the Anafora community. We will visit holy sites as well as historic sites and enjoy the culture at some hangout spots!

Upon arrival in Cairo, we will be transported by bus to Anafora where we will spend the first four nights. While our base is at Anafora, we will participate in the schedule of the community, serve, learn some trade, and visit nearby monasteries and historic sites. Precisely, while at Anafora, we will visit the monasteries of Scetis (Wadi El Natrun and others nearby), Old Cairo Churches, the Pyramids, the monastery of St. Mina and the Library of Alexandria. During our time in Anafora, we hope His Eminence Metropolitan Thomas will be available to give us a spiritual talk. We will learn about the Second Chance ministry program. We will participate in hand-crafted work projects based on everyone's interest, such as weaving mats, making candles, filling honey into jars from the beehive, learning how to paint the Iota Cross on papyrus and wood, and making bracelets and other accessories. All this handcrafted work is sold at the Anafora shop to support the community and its ministries. (Figures 1-3) *Anafora has been in existence since 1999. Anafora strives to be a self-sustainable community, open to everyone to come for a retreat to be lifted to God. Before the world started caring about the environment, Anafora has been a leader in recycling and reusing. Anafora attracted and continues to attract many from around the globe to go volunteer using their skills and gifts. Many from different ethnicities, languages, and faith traditions come to Anafora and spend extended period of times to volunteer.*

On the fifth day, we will leave Anafora and head to the city of Tanta where we will be based for the next 4 days at the monastery of St. Mina Abyar. In Tanta, we will participate in multiple service opportunities – at “The Ark” for individuals with special needs, the orphanage, and the children's cancer hospital, and join the clergy and servants in doing home visitations. While in Tanta, we will visit the monastery of St. Demiana in Elbarary. (Figure 4-5)

This brings us to the end of our trip but not without some more fun in Egypt. We will head to Cairo in which we will visit Abu Sefein's Convent, the Nativity Cathedral, Pope Cyril VI's Windmill, and take the blessing of meeting with His Holiness Pope Tawadros II (Figure 6). Finally, on our last night in Cairo, we will have a night out at Cairo Festival City.

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Trip Information

Trip Location: Egypt

Trip Dates: May 9-19, 2023 (*must arrive by Monday, May 8, to start our itinerary on May 9*)

Trip Cost: \$999.00

Included in the cost: Accommodations throughout our trip and travel within Egypt, donations to host sites, meals, and transportation

Not included in the cost: Airfare, a \$20 Tourist Visa for non-Egyptian nationals, and spending money for snacks and miscellaneous meals

There are 20 spots for this trip. To secure a spot, the interested participant must register online and pay a \$100.00 non-refundable deposit by February 5, 2023 (10% of the trip cost).

Participation

Participation in OCCM Mission is open to university students—in undergrad and professional schools—and recent graduates if there is space. Please note that priority is given to university students—before recent grads—and registration is first-come, first-serve.

Contact Information

OCCM Mission Trip Coordinator: Daniel Ibrahim – vp@susoccm.org

OCCM Mission Trip Leader: Fr. Jerome Maximous – frjerome@susoccm.org

Important Dates

December 18, 2022 Registration opens

February 5, 2023 Registration deadline; non-refundable deposit due (10% of the trip cost)

March 5, 2023 Balance due (remaining 90% of the trip cost)

Payment Information

To secure a spot, interested participants must register online using the Google Form, upload the required documents, and pay a \$100.00 non-refundable deposit by February 5, 2023 (10% of the trip

Orthodox Christian Campus Ministries (OCCM)

www.susoccm.org



cost). The remaining balance of the trip cost (\$899.00) must be paid by March 5, 2023. All payments are accepted via Zelle to admin@susoccm.org.

Payment and Liability Policies

Participants are required to sign that they understand and comply with the trip policies when registering. The *Liability & Payment Policies*, found on the [website](#), must be signed and emailed to vp@susoccm.org upon completing the [registration form](#) online.

Required Documents

The below documents are required to participate in OCCM Mission. All must be emailed as instructed upon registering.

- Copy of your passport (*must be valid for at least 6 months after trip return date*)
- Letter of Recommendation from the Father Confessor/Parish Priest that the student is in good standing and is prepared spiritually and maturely to participate in the mission. The letter can be emailed directly from the Father Confessor to Fr. Jerome at frjerome@susoccm.org.

Travel Information

Most airlines (except for British Airways and Lufhansa) allow two (2) pieces of checked luggage and one (1) carry-on bag. (NOTE: *Basic Economy* fares do not include checked in luggage allowance.) You will use one piece of the check-in luggage allowance for your travel belongings, and the second piece of check-in allowance will be dedicated to donations. Pack wisely! A list of needed donations will be made available to all registrants to sign up and bring to the host sites.

If you are not a U.S. Passport holder or an Egyptian Passport holder, you must check the visa requirements for Egypt. (Each traveler is responsible for his/her visa.)

Please plan to depart the U.S. after attending your Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 7, arriving in Cairo (CAI) on Monday, May 8, at night. We shall start our planned itinerary on May 9. For your return, please book your return ticket to travel at night on Friday, November 19 (might be the eve of Saturday as in a 2:00 a.m. flight depending on the airline schedule).

Orthodox Christian Campus Ministries (OCCM)

www.susoccm.org



Vaccinations and Health Requirements

Registrants should be in good health and comfortable walking for long distances in tropical weather. No vaccinations are required for this trip. Refer to the CDC and [U.S. Department of State](http://www.state.gov) for most up to date information.

Accommodations

All participants will be staying at retreat centers associated with the Coptic Orthodox Church except for two nights in Cairo at a hotel. (See details in the itinerary below.)

Dress Code

Everything that we do represents an image of who we are. Therefore, we are responsible to show Christ in us to those around us wherever we are. T-shirts with suggestive, crude, or derogatory language or tight blouses will draw negative attention; please do not bring them. Dresses must be modest. No leggings, tight-fitting jeans, tight skirts, tights, yoga pants, or anything of the like, unless covered by a long, non-sticking shirt. Ladies must wear modest skirts and respectable shirts that cover their shoulders, while men must wear long pants and respectable long-sleeve shirts; no shorts in churches. They will need to be worn when going out to visitations, liturgy, or any other service.

Expect the average temperature in May to be around 60-95 degrees Fahrenheit between the mornings and evenings. Therefore, pack accordingly. There is a significant probability for there to be a delay in arrival of luggage, hence pack an extra set of clothes in a carry-on should such occur.

Packing List

- Bring your bible, agpeya, and journal
- Deacons – bring your liturgical vestment (tonia)
- Girls – headscarf, ankle-long skirts
- Toiletries, bath towels, sunscreen, hand sanitizers, wet wipes, bug repellent for mosquitos and flies, any necessary medication
- Crocs and similar shoes are the best to have on this trip.
- Do not bring any valuables.

Orthodox Christian Campus Ministries (OCCM)

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Emergencies

In case of emergency during the trip, participants and their guardians may call the OCCM Mission Leader, Fr. Jerome. Should you desire, you may buy your own travel insurance.

TENTATIVE Schedule of OCCM Mission Trip to Egypt

Date	Time	Task
Monday, May 8	10 pm – 1:00 a.m.	Group Arrivals at Airport
Tuesday, May 9	02:00 a.m.	Transport to Anafora; sleep and rest
	11:00 a.m.	Get up and be ready for Lunch
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch
	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Tour of Anafora
	5:00 p.m.	Evening Agpeya Prayers, Vespers Praise, and Vespers Raising of Incense
	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	8:00 p.m.	Midnight Hour and Community Prayer
	9:00 p.m.	OCCM Mission Bible Study and Next Day Planning <i>Fellowship time with the community. Go to bed at a decent time to get up for Midnight Praises at 4:00 a.m.</i>
Wednesday, May 10	4:00 – 5:30 a.m.	Midnight Praises and Morning Praises
	5:30 – 7:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
	7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
	8:30 a.m.	Depart to Visit Old Cairo Churches and the Pyramids
	4:00 p.m.	Return to Anafora
	5:00 p.m.	Evening Agpeya Prayers, Vespers Praise, and Vespers Raising of Incense
	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	8:00 p.m.	Midnight Hour and Community Prayer
	9:00 p.m.	OCCM Mission Bible Study and Next Day Planning
Thursday, May 11	4:00 – 5:30 a.m.	Midnight Praises and Morning Praises
	5:30 – 7:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
	7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast

Orthodox Christian Campus Ministries (OCCM)

www.susoccm.org



Date	Time	Task
	8:30 a.m.	Depart to Visit the Monasteries of Scetis
	4:00 p.m.	Return to Anafora
	5:00 p.m.	Evening Agpeya Prayers, Vespers Praise, and Vespers Raising of Incense
	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	8:00 p.m.	Midnight Hour and Community Prayer
	9:00 p.m.	OCCM Mission Bible Study and Next Day Planning
Friday, May 12	4:00 – 5:30 a.m.	Midnight Praises and Morning Praises
	5:30 – 7:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
	7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
	8:30 a.m.	Get assigned into various work groups of service at Anafora (handcrafts, beehive, farm, etc.)
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch
	5:00 p.m.	Evening Agpeya Prayers, Vespers Praise, and Vespers Raising of Incense
	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	8:00 p.m.	Midnight Hour and Community Prayer
	9:00 p.m.	OCCM Mission Bible Study and Next Day Planning
Saturday, May 13	4:00 – 5:30 a.m.	Midnight Praises and Morning Praises
	5:30 – 7:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
	7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
	8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Pack up and get on the bus to head to Alexandria
	9:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Visit the Monastery of St. Mina and Visit the Library of Alexandria, and conclude the evening with a seafood dinner at the Fish Market
	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Drive to St. Mina Abyar, Tanta
Sunday, May 14	7:00 – 9:00 a.m	Divine Liturgy
	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Assign responsibilities for Pediatric Cancer Hospital)
	11:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Pediatric Cancer Hospital
	1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch
	2:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Local Visitations/Humanitarian Assistance

Orthodox Christian Campus Ministries (OCCM)

www.susoccm.org



Date	Time	Task
	7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Dinner
	8:00 – 9:00 p.m.	OCCM Mission Bible Study and Next Day Planning
Monday, May 15	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast
	11:00 – 2:00 p.m.	The Ark (Special Needs services)
	2:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Free Time
	5:00 p.m.	St. Mary Berma (Medical Service with Fr. Pavlos)
	9:00 p.m.	OCCM Mission Bible Study and Next Day Planning
Tuesday, May 16	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast
	10:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Orphanage Service
	1:00 p.m.	St. Demiana Monastery
	6:00 p.m.	Dinner
	7:00	OCCM Mission Bible Study and Next Day Planning
Wednesday, May 17	7:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Liturgy
	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast
	10:00 – 2:00 p.m.	St. George Convent, Abu Sefein Convent
	3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Nativity Cathedral
	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Check-in at Sheraton Hotel
	7:00 p.m.	Meeting H.H. Pope Tawadros II (PENDING)
	9:00 p.m.	Dinner
	10:00 p.m.	OCCM Mission Bible Study and Next Day Planning
Thursday, May 18	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Breakfast
	12:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Pope Cyril VI Windmill
	4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Wash-up
	5:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Cairo Festival City
	11:00 p.m.	Communal Prayer
Friday, May 19	10:00 a.m.	Breakfast & Checkout
	...Till Flight Time	Free time in the hotel area (ideas and options TBD)