

# The Eternal Eye

A Selling Exhibition of contemporary Coptic Icons  
by the renowned Egyptian icon artist, Magdy William

**October 20 at 7 PM**

**Opening Reception**

(To be officially opened by the  
Coptic Bishop of Maadi, Bishop Daniel)

Exhibition will run through October 26

Thursday, 20th – 7 PM-official opening

Friday, 21st – 12 noon-4 pm

Saturday, 22nd – 11 am-4 pm

Sunday, 23rd – Closed all day

Monday, 24th – 11am-7pm

Tuesday, 25th-11am-7pm

Wednesday, 26th – 11am-7pm

## Special Presentations:

\*Friday, October 21, 11:30am-12:30pm

“The Making of Coptic Icons”

by Magdy William.

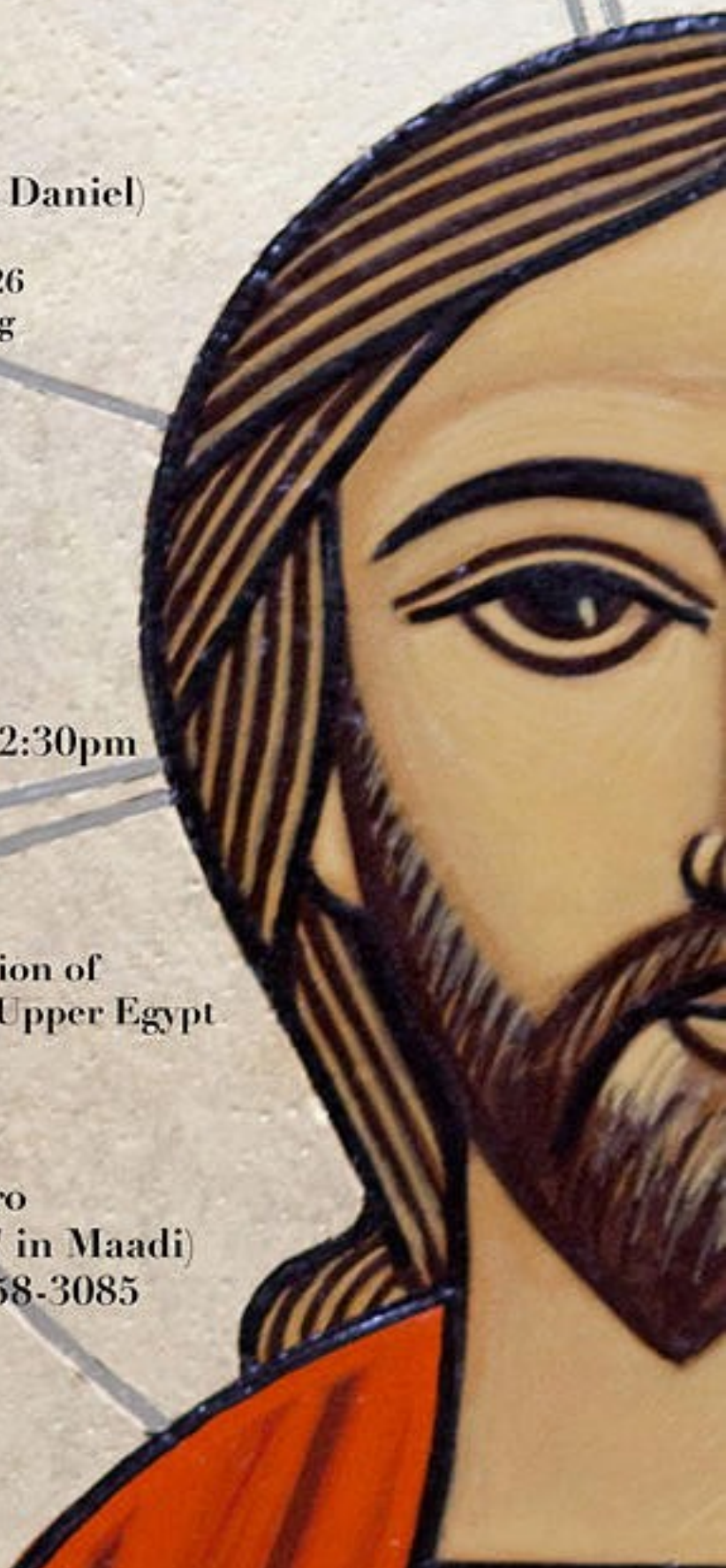
\*Monday, October 24, 7pm

Visual Presentation of the restoration of  
the 6th century Red Monastery in Upper Egypt  
by Dr. Michael Jones

St. John's Church – Maadi, Cairo

(corner of Port Said Rd & Rd 17 in Maadi)

[www.maadichurch.org/](http://www.maadichurch.org/) tel. 2358-3085





## MAGDY WILLIAM

ICON ARTIST



Magdy William, a student under the late renowned Dr. Isaac Fanous, the founder of the school of modern Coptic painting and the initiator of the modern renaissance in Coptic art, has been one of the world's premier Coptic icon artists for several decades.

In addition to his work beautifying countless churches throughout Egypt and around the world, he has held solo exhibitions in Europe and Australia. His studio is located along the Nile in Maadi at the Coptic Orthodox Church of St. George.

## JESSICA WRIGHT

CURATOR



Jessica Wright majored in Art History and Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University where she focused her independent research on contemporary Middle Eastern art. She managed a gallery and cultural program in Washington, DC that showcased modern visual, literary and performing arts by Arab and Arab-American artists.

Born and raised in Jordan to American parents, she is a native Arabic speaker with a broad understanding of regional issues and extensive experience in promoting cross-cultural understanding.

## ICONS

Jessica Wright

Icons, from the Greek word *eikon*, meaning 'image', have been an important part of Eastern Christian worship for centuries. Coptic icons occupy a unique place in Christian iconography with their ties to Ancient Egyptian and Hellenic visual culture, and their subsequent influence on Islamic art. Coptic icons are notable for their restrained and spare aesthetic, with simple designs and strong, clear colors. The naïve nature of the figures and scenes depicted is a deliberate artistic technique whose goal is to create visual pictures of divine subjects inspiring devotion and worship. Each gesture has its own significance and the colors carry symbolic meaning.

The techniques employed in the making of icons on wooden panels have not changed over the centuries. Iconographers prepare the panels with gesso, a white background made of lime and glue. The gesso is applied in multiple thin layers to achieve a hard but porous surface then sanded vigorously. Once the panels are ready, iconographers apply the gilding and paint the design with tempera, a fast-drying paint medium of pigments mixed with a binding agent such as egg yolk.

Coptic iconography reached its zenith during the Coptic period, between the 4th-7th centuries. Coptic artists and craftsmen were also prolific during the Fatimid period in the 10th-12th centuries, a period of church building and restoration that brought about a renewal of Coptic art. By the second half of the 19th century, Coptic iconography had all but disappeared.

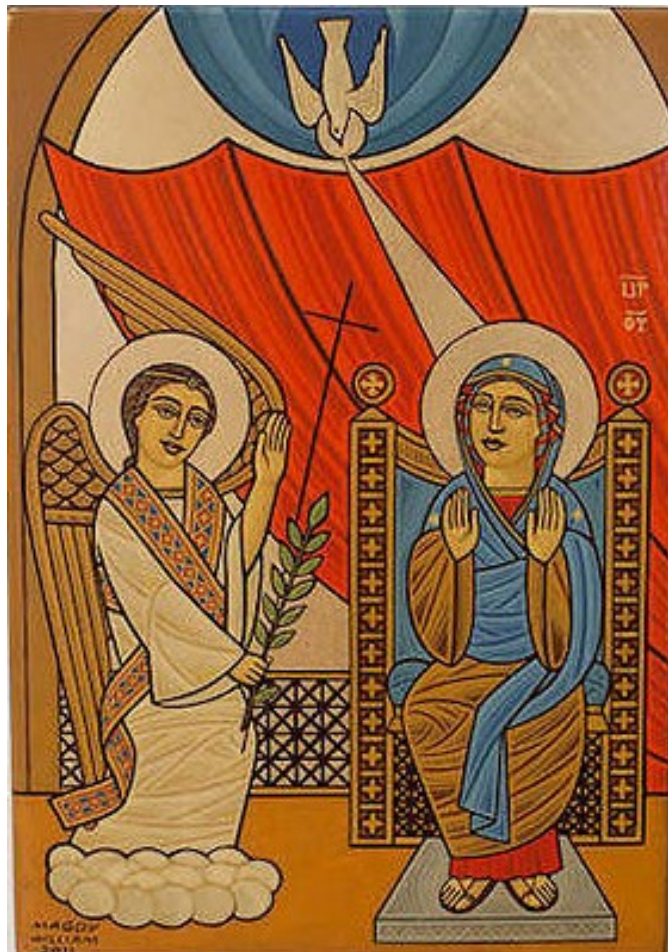
Thanks to Dr. Isaac Fanous, the founder of the contemporary or Neo-Coptic School of Iconography, Coptic art and iconography have benefitted from the general renaissance of Coptic culture which began in the 1950s and 1960s. Because of this renewed interest in Coptic art and the resultant training of new artists and iconographers, this ancient and beautiful art form is now accessible to us today.



Abraham and Isaac



Moses at the Burning Bush



The Annunciation to Mary





The Annunciation to Mary

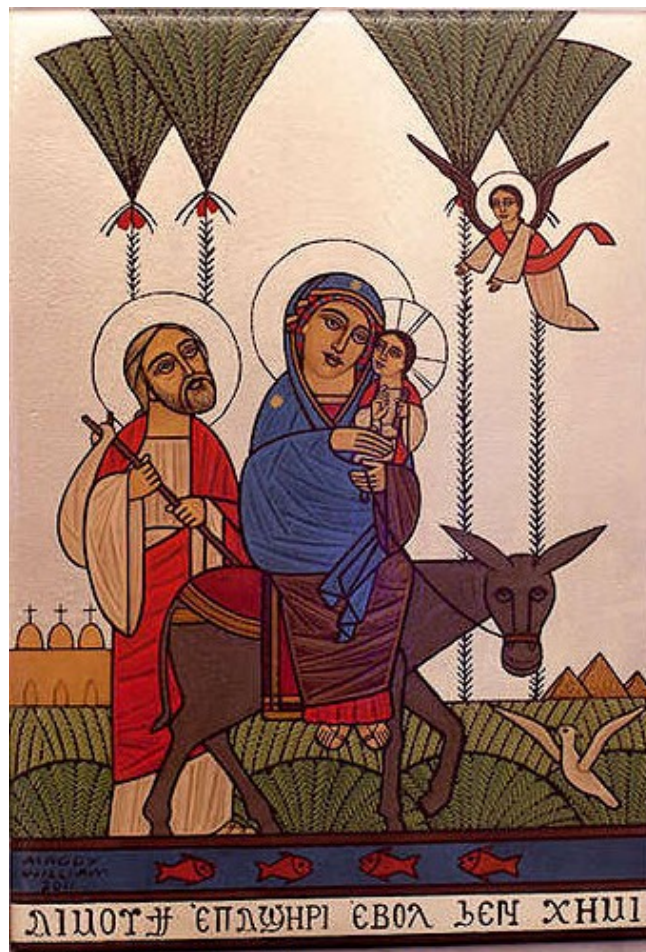


The Nativity





The Nativity

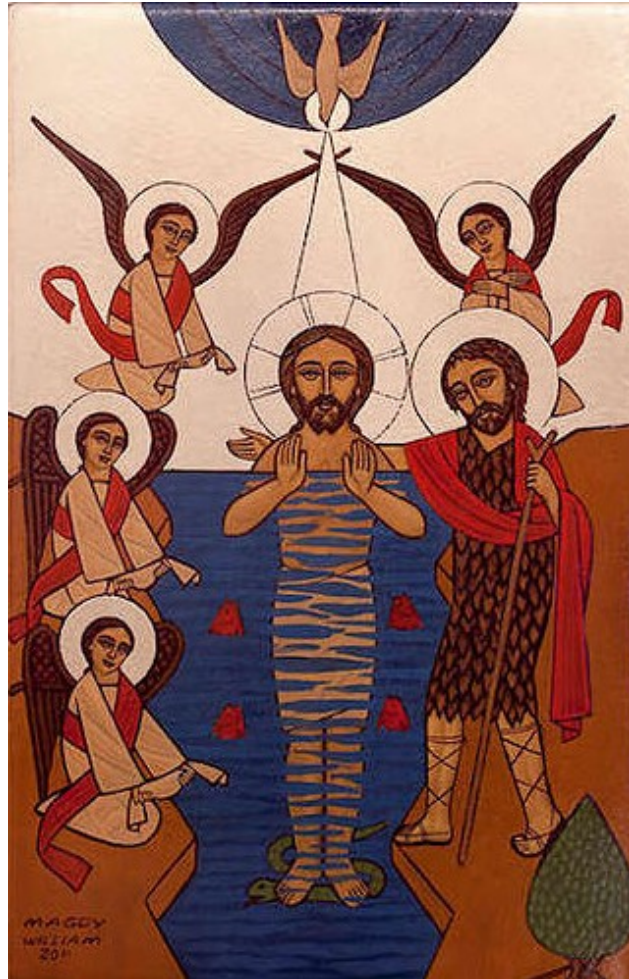


The Holy Family's flight to Egypt



The Holy Family's flight to Egypt





The Baptism of Christ

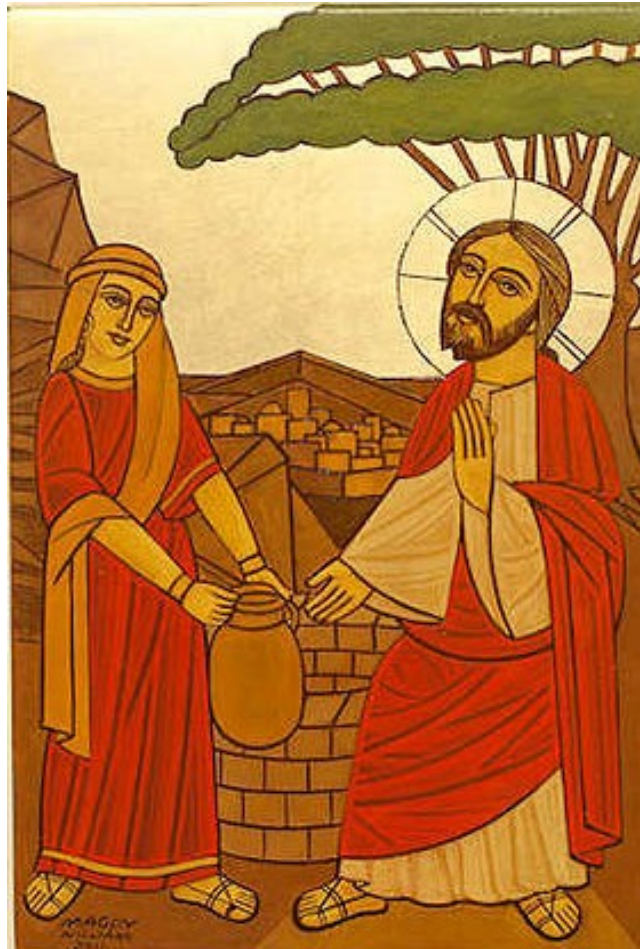


The Wedding of Cana



Daniel and the Lion's Den





Jesus and the Samaritan woman

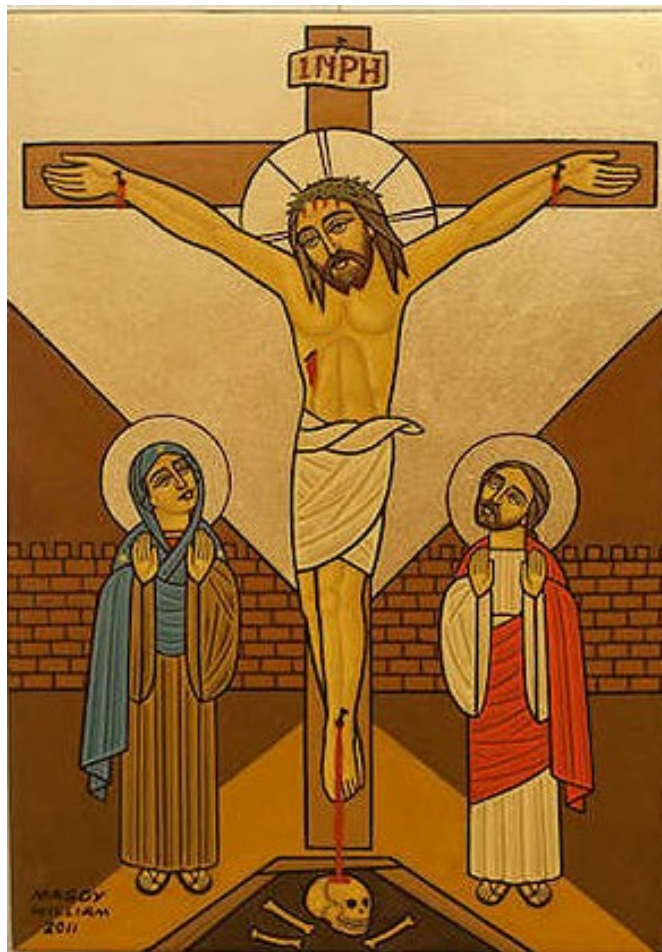


The Resurrection of Lazarus

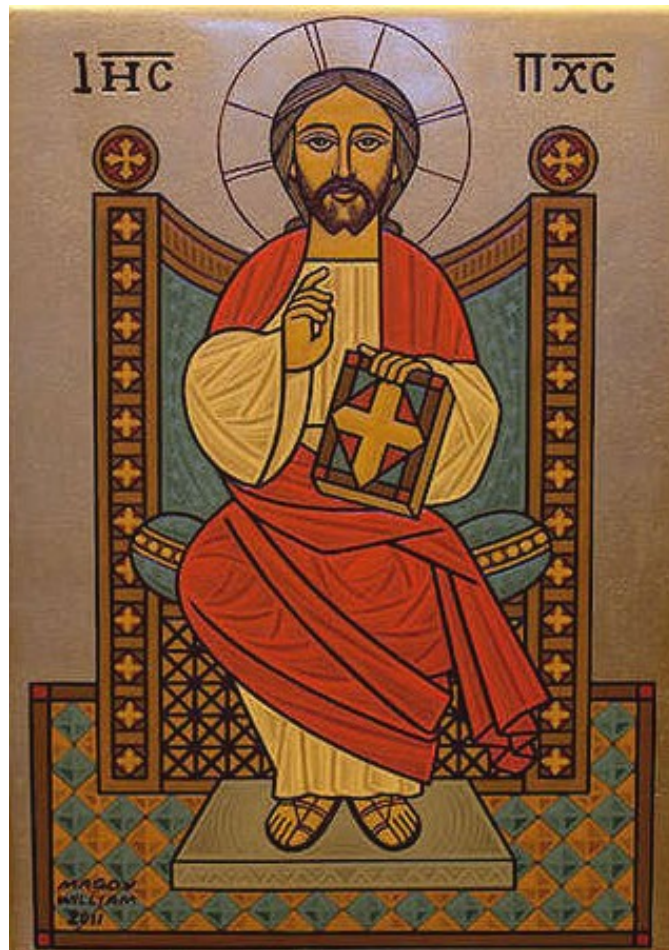


The Last Supper

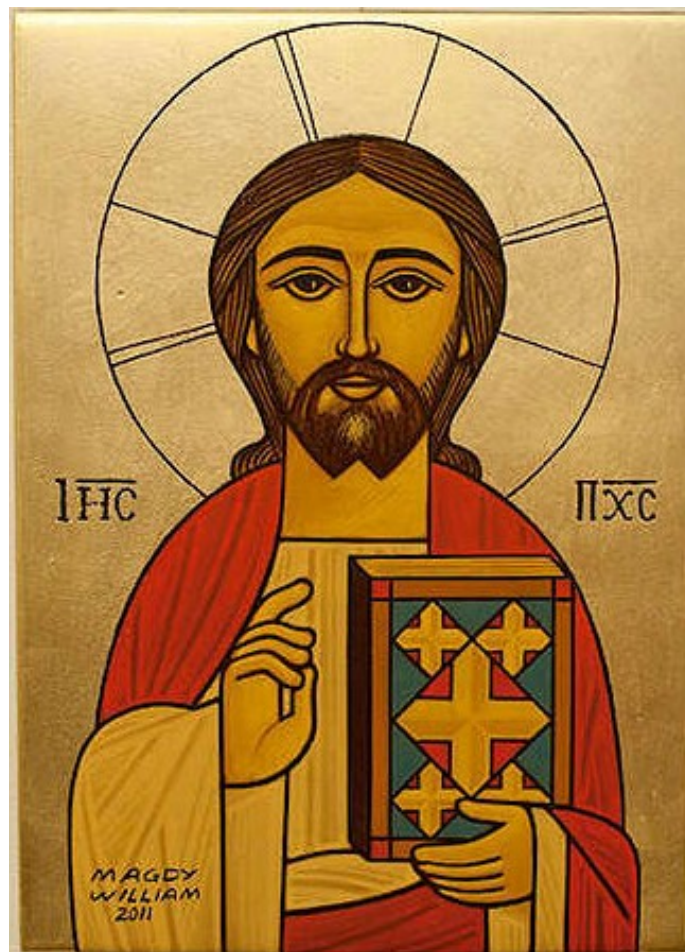




Christ the Savior

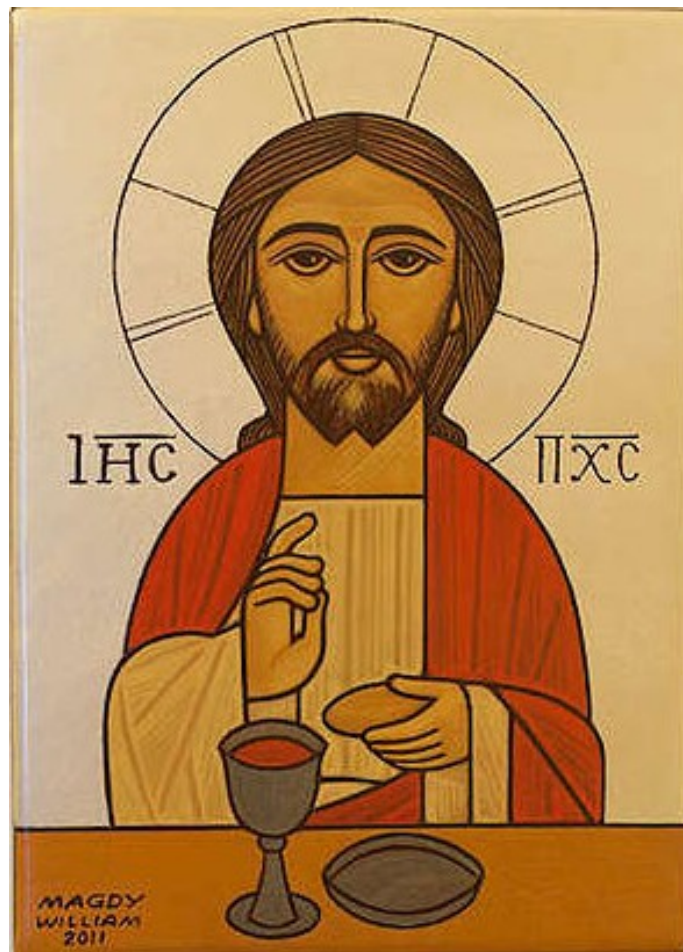


Christ the Pantocrator, seated



Christ the Pantocrator





Christ the Pantocrator, bread and chalice



St. Mina (Coptic Saint, late 3rd Century AD)



St. Anthony the Great (3rd-4th Century AD)





St Augustine of Hippo, North Africa  
(4th– 5th Century AD)



St Macarius, Coptic Monk, 4th century AD



St Thomas the Apostle (Doubting Thomas), St Peter the Apostle, St John the Gospel





St Mark the Gospel Writer in Alexandria