

# Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church Welcomes His Grace Bishop Boulos

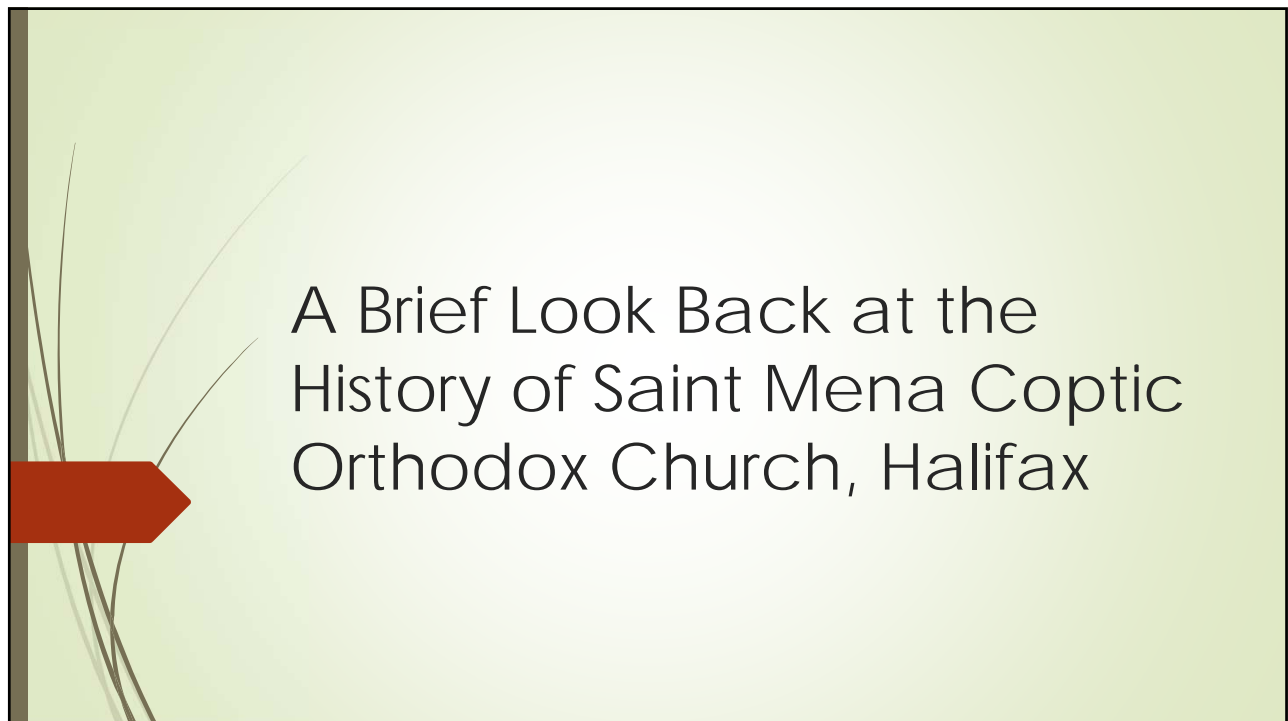




**ST. MENA CHURCH  
WELCOMES HIS GRACE  
BISHOP BOULOS**

Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Ottawa, Montreal and Eastern Canada

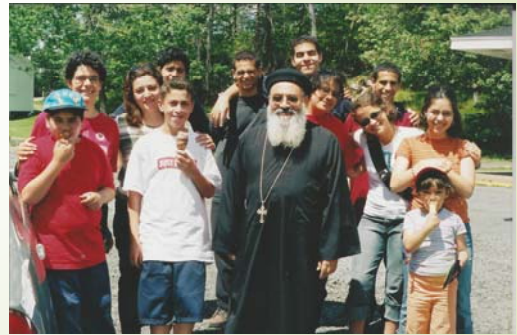
**“So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands.” PS 78:72**



A Brief Look Back at the  
History of Saint Mena Coptic  
Orthodox Church, Halifax

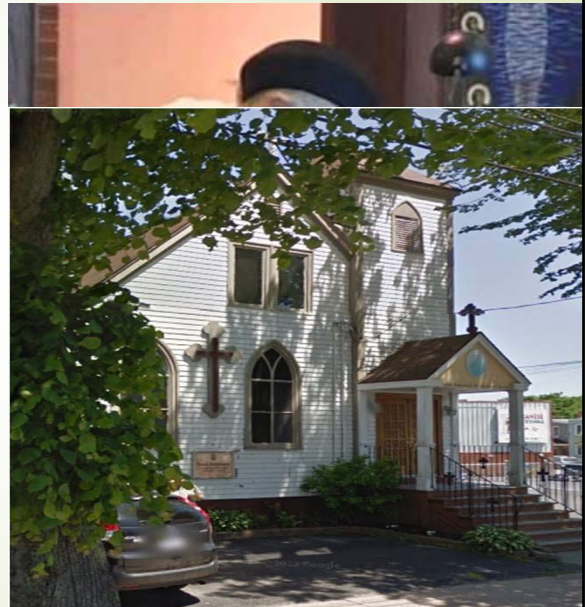
## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 1985

- As Early as 1985 there were only seven Coptic families in Halifax.
- We had no church building at that time.
- Father Youssef Sedra used to come from Montreal and pray the Holy Mass in one of the congregation members' homes.



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 1985 (cont.)

- Later Father Elias and Father Maximos from Saint Antonios Antiochian Orthodox Church generously allowed us to use their church building on Saturdays.
- Father Athanasius Iskandar from Ontario used to come every three months to pray a Coptic Holy Mass.

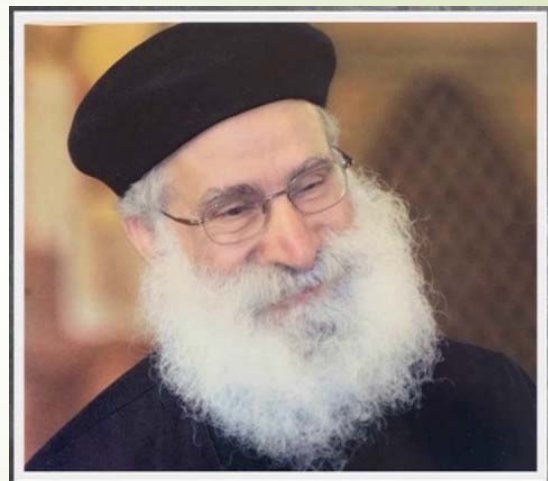


## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 1987

- In 1987, with more Coptic families settling in Halifax, an official Coptic community was founded (fewer than 10 families).
- Father Athanasius started to come once a month rather than every three months and they still used Saint Antonios Antiochian Orthodox Church.
- Following the Holy Liturgy the small Congregation gathered together for Aghape (they started the tradition we have today) at one of the congregation members' homes.

## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 1987 - 1997

- Year after year the Congregation number grew with God's Blessing. There were more than 20 families by 1993.
- By that time late Father Bishoy Saad from Montreal was also visiting regularly



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 1987 - 1997

- Families with young children started to come and settle in Halifax.
- The small Congregation with Father Bishoy's guidance started Sunday School classes on Saturdays following the liturgy.



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 1987 - 1997 (cont.)

- University students helped the older servants in the Sunday school tasks.
- These Sunday School kids are now part of our Sunday School Servants family!



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 1997

- With God's guidance and Father Bishoy's advice we started to look for a Church building.
- After looking for a while we found our current beautiful Church and we decided this was the Church we wanted.
- With God's grace, the church was paid for in cash. Amazing!!!

## Our Church Name

- After buying the church the Congregation put all the suggested names for the Church in a basket and all prayed!
- A young child was asked to pull the paper with the chosen name
- It was:

*"Saint Mena"*



Beside the new sign with Fr. Athanasius



St. Mena's early look inside



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church Our Church (Cont.)

- The Iconostasis frame and all the woodwork in the church were made by talented members of the congregation.



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church Our Church

- The Congregation was so happy with our new Church and everyone from the congregation had a touch and a mark in what you see and have today.





## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 1999

- ▶ By 1999, several requests were sent to H.H. Pope Shenouda III to appoint a residing priest for our Church.
- ▶ In 1999 H.H. Pope Shenouda sent Father Guirguis Samy, who was a blessing to our church for close to a year.
- ▶ Then the Church was again served by Fathers from the other provinces until 2001.



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 2001

- ▶ In 2001 we celebrated the arrival of Father Daniel with his beautiful family, Tassoni Ekhlash, Irini, Keyro and Verena.
- ▶ Father Daniel has been a true blessing for us since then. He also has been and still serves some of Atlantic Canada's Coptic Communities in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church September 2014

- In 2014 H.H Pope Tawadros II visited our Church in Halifax and consecrated the altars. He also blessed our newly purchased land in a plan to build our new Church "**Saint Mena and Pope Kyrillos VI**".



## Pope Tawadros II Praying at our newly purchased land



## Pope Tawadros II Praying at our newly purchased land



## Pope Tawadros II Praying at our newly purchased land



## Pope Tawadros II Praying at our newly purchased land



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church 2018

- In 2018 we celebrated the arrival of Father Thomas with his beautiful family Tassoni Sahar, David and Nicole and they have been a true blessing for us.



## Father Daniel and Father Thomas 2019



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church

- ▀ Along the years our church Youth has started activities that connected us, including but not limited to:
  - ▀ Living Praise Choir. "When our Youth went on conventions they were told that our church is known as the singing church"
  - ▀ Summer Camps
  - ▀ Multicultural events
  - ▀ David's Trumpet Choir
  - ▀ Jesus Journey in Christmas



## Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Church

- Some families joined our church and later moved to different provinces or countries but they are still part of our big family and we have formed long lasting friendships.
- From a handful of families in 1985 to the number we are today.
- May God Bless our Church always.



2004



2000



2006



With Fr Maximos El Baramosy at that time, now General Bishop Anba Maximos



With Fr Maximos El Baramosy at that time, now General Bishop Anba Maximos

With Fr Morcos Mansour shortly after his ordination - 1995



With Fr Morcos Mansour shortly after his ordination - 1995



With Fr Morcos Mansour - 1995



Pope Tawadros II with our David's Trumpet Choir 2014



Pope Twadros II with our Living Praise Choir 2014