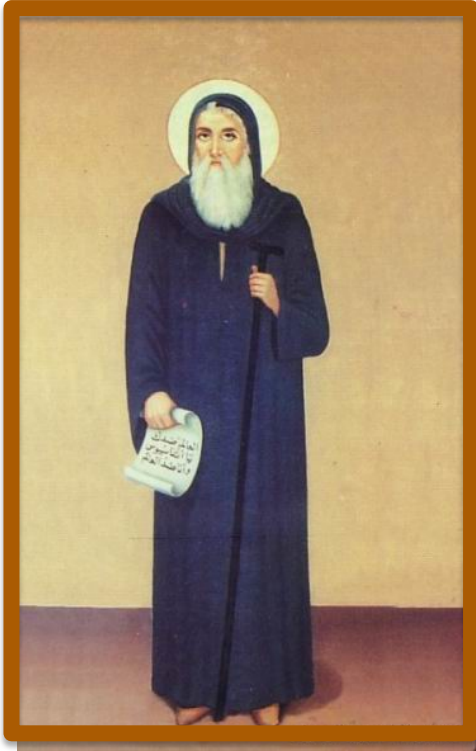


CHURCH STUDY

THE DEFENDERS OF THE

Faith

ST. ATHANASIUS THE APOSTOLIC



- ✧ St. Athanasius was born of pagan parents.
- ✧ During his childhood, Emperor Diocletian persecuted Christians everywhere.
- ✧ He studied in the Theological School of Alexandria.
- ✧ He was baptized by Pope Alexandrous.
- ✧ He went to the wilderness and was a disciple of St. Anthony for 3 years.
- ✧ Pope Alexandrous ordained him a deacon and appointed him to be his personal secretary.
- ✧ He was elected to be the 20th Pope over the See of St. Mark after the departure of Pope Alexandrous. He was the youngest person to become Pope and the only one to be called *"The Apostolic"* because he kept the faith that we received from the pure apostles.
- ✧ The Church celebrates the departure of Pope Athanasius on the 15th of May.

AGAINST ARIUS

THE COUNCIL OF NICEA

Arius denied the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. 318 bishops assembled in the city of Nicea during the reign of Emperor Constantine, the Great. St. Athanasius responded to all the heresies of Arius. Everyone was amazed by him and they called him the "Hero of God's Church".



The holy Fathers confirmed the apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature and wrote The **Nicene Creed** until "...yes we believe in the Holy Spirit." The heresy of Arius was exposed. Arius was excommunicated and exiled.

ST. CYRIL THE PILLAR OF FAITH



AGAINST NESTORIUS

THE COUNCIL OF EPHESUS

- ❖ He was the nephew of Pope Theophilus (23rd Patriarch).
- ❖ He received his education in the School of Alexandria.
- ❖ He went to the monastery of St. Macarius in the wilderness and became the disciple of an old monk called Sarabamon.
- ❖ He spent five years in the wilderness before Pope Theophilus sent him to Abba Sarapion, the bishop. There, he increased in wisdom and knowledge.
- ❖ Shortly after, Pope Theophilus ordained him a deacon, appointed him a preacher and made him his scribe.
- ❖ He was enthroned as a Patriarch over the See of St. Mark in the year 421 AD after the departure of Pope Theophilus.
- ❖ He gave special attention to resisting paganism and defending the Christian faith.
- ❖ He departed in peace on the 3rd day of the month of Abib in the year 444 AD.

Nestorius was the Patriarch of Constantinople. He denied that the Virgin Mary was the Mother of God (Theotokos).

Two hundred bishops assembled in the city of Ephesus during the reign of Emperor Theodosius II, known by Theodosius the Less.

St. Cyril (Kyrillos), Pope of Alexandria, presided over this council.

He debated Nestorius, explained to him his heretic opinion and explained the true faith, disapproving his error.



Nestorius heresy



OUTCOME



The introduction of the Creed “We exalt you O Mother of the true light...” Nestorius was disposed from his See, excommunicated and his doctrines were condemned.

APPROVED

POPE DIOSCORUS OF ALEXANDRIA



- He was born in Alexandria, Egypt.
- He succeeded St. Cyril as Patriarch in the year 444 AD.
- He was the 25th Pope of Alexandria.
- Emperor Marcianus and the Empress Belkarya brought St. Dioscorus, and the leading bishops to the Council who debated the nature of Christ and discussed the matter, but St. Dioscorus would not deviate from his Orthodox belief.
- The emperor and empress were irritated at this, and the empress commanded St. Dioscorus to be beaten.
- He was exiled to the island of Gangra.
- The Bishop of Gangra was Nestorian, so he met St. Dioscorus with contempt and disdain.
- God performed many great signs and wonders at the hands of St. Dioscorus, so that all obeyed him, respected and revered him greatly.
- He departed on 7 Tout, in the year 451 AD in the island of Gangra, where his body was laid.
- He is considered a great hero of Orthodoxy, preserving one of the core beliefs of the faith:

He was called to the Council of Chalcedon by the order of Emperor Marcianus.

When he saw that Leo, Archbishop of Rome, was teaching that Christ has two natures and two wills after the Union, he took the charge to refute this new belief.

THE UNITY OF THE NATURE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

