

The Holy Spirit and the Church

Holy Spirit

8. And in the Holy Spirit, the Creator of life; Who proceeds from the Father and together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke through the prophets.

Holy Spirit



- ✦ What is the Holy Spirit?
 - ✦ Divine being, fully God, living, intelligent and a sanctifying principle of all things.
 - ✦ One in the Holy Trinity: One God, One Father, One Son, One Holy Spirit.
 - ✦ Maybe view that distinguishes us from many Protestants.
 - ✦ Mystical & sacramental dimension of our Faith.

Holy Spirit



- ✦ St. Cyril:
*“His coming is **gentle**;*
- ✦ *the perception of Him is **fragrant**;*
- ✦ *His burden is most **light**;*
- ✦ *beams of **light** and **knowledge** gleam forth before His coming.*
- ✦ *He comes with the bowels of a true **guardian**;*
- ✦ *for He comes to **save**, to **heal**, to **teach**, to **admonish**, to **strengthen**, to **exhort**, to **enlighten** the mind.”*

Holy Spirit



- ✦ Called **Comforter**:
He comforts and encourages us.
- ✦ Paul: He *“helps us with our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the **spirit Himself makes intercession** for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered.”* (Romans 8:26)
- ✦ He portrays to us the Kingdom of Heaven and gives a glimpse of Paradise.

Holy Spirit



- ✦ Reveals **deep things of God**
- ✦ Paul: *But God has revealed them to us **through His Spirit.***
- ✦ *For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the **deep things of God.***
- ✦ *For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Cor 2:10-11)*
- ✦ How do you experience this Spirit?

Holy Spirit



- ✦ Ways Holy Spirit manifested Himself:
 - ✦ **Fervor in heart.** This occurs during fervent prayer, sometimes as fervent warmth in the whole person.
 - ✦ **A voice.** The holy prophets and apostles bear witness often to this mystical yet clear voice of God.
 - ✦ **A dove.** Baptism of Christ in River Jordan. "And John bore witness, saying: *'I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him.'*" (John 1:32)

Holy Spirit



- ✦ **Fiery tongues** on 50th day after the Resurrection of Christ.
- ✦ Luke writes: *"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.*
- ✦ *And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*
- ✦ *And there appeared to them **tongues as of fire**, distributed and resting on each one of them.*
- ✦ *And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* (Acts 2:1-4).

Holy Spirit



- ✦ Fulfillment of what the Lord promised:
- ✦ Jesus says:
*"And I shall pray to the Father, and He will give you another **Counselor**, to be with you **forever**, even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him;*
- ✦ *you know Him, for **He dwells with you, and will be in you.**"* (John 14:16-17).

Holy Spirit



- ✦ Jesus bore witness concerning Holy Spirit.
- ✦ He said: "*The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach you all things**, and **bring to your remembrance** all that I have said to you*" (John 14:26).
- ✦ And: "*But when the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will **bear witness of Me***" (John 15:26).
- ✦ And: "*And when the Spirit of truth comes, He will **lead you into all truth . . . He will glorify Me***" (John 16:13-14).

Holy Spirit



- ✦ Saint Nikolai: *“The Holy Spirit was promised - thus men came to know of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit manifested Himself - thus men believed in the existence of the Holy Spirit.*
- ✦ *The Holy Spirit **abides among the faithful** - thus men have come to love God the Holy Spirit.”*

Holy Spirit



- ✦ *...the Holy Spirit is **not a creation** of God but God.*
- ✦ *He is **the Lord, the Giver of Life**, whose presence **creates life**, gives **strength**, instills **wisdom**, produces **joy**.*
- ✦ *From the eternal Father He eternally **proceeds**. He is of the **same essence** as the **Father**, of the same essence as the **Son**... the same power, of the same glory.*
- ✦ *He differs only in respect to person. ...*
- ✦ *But to Him also is due the **same worship** and the **same glorification**.*
- ✦ *The holy prophets spoke through Him. Into simple fishermen He poured the wisdom of heaven. To feeble men and women-martyred for Christ-He gives invincible strength, stronger than death.*

Holy Spirit



- ✦ How can we believe in this Holy Spirit?
- ✦ *“Belief in the Holy Spirit of God is not based on supposition, on mental hypothesis, but on **revealed, experienced, and witnessed** reality.”*
- ✦ How do we become witnesses?
- ✦ *“Whoever wishes to become a living witness of this reality, must make an effort to **cleanse his heart of sin** and cense it **with prayer**, before any probing of the heavenly mysteries. And the Holy Spirit will reveal Himself to him...”*

Holy Spirit



- ✦ This is the greatest gift that God gives to men. For when He gives the Holy Spirit, He is actually giving Himself. Is there any love greater than this?
- ✦ We also call this Grace. How do you know this gift?
- ✦ We must ask for it.
- ✦ Christ says: *"If you then, who are sinful, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to **those who ask Him?**"* (Luke 11:13).

Holy Spirit



- ◆ How do we say Holy Spirit is “***creator of life***”.
- ◆ Bestows life, restores life, brings to life, and resurrects.
- ◆ When God created the world, "*the Spirit of God was moving over the waters*" (Gen. 1:2).
- ◆ When God created man, He created him "*from dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the spirit of life, and man became a living soul*" (Gen. 2:7).

Holy Spirit

- ✿ With our Baptism Holy Spirit dwells in each of us.
- ✿ Paul writes: *"The Spirit of God dwells in you"* (Rom. 8:9).
He points out the difference between spirit of man and Spirit of God adding: *"This Spirit (of God) testifies to our spirit that we are children of God"* (Rom. 8:16).
- ✿ It is necessary to have to enter the Kingdom of God.
- ✿ Jesus says, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*

Holy Spirit



- ✦ Does the term “*proceeds from the Father*” result of any change in God?
- ✦ No.
- ✦ Can we also say “proceed from the Son?”
- ✦ Christ says, “*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who **proceeds from the Father**, He will testify of Me.*” (John 15:26)
- ✦ This was clearly affirmed in the 2nd Ecumenical council and then in the Third was agreed to **never change** any aspect of the Creed.
- ✦ Change in West led to **Schism** in 11th century when they proclaimed, “proceeds from Father **& Son.**”

Holy Spirit



◆ **Questions?**

Holy Spirit



- ✦ This is our aim as Christians to “***become partakers of the Holy Spirit***” (2 Pet. 1:2-4).
- ✦ St. Cyril: *the Spirit moulds as it were into another likeness those in whom He visibly abides.*
- ✦ *For He easily turns them from an inclination to dwell on the things of earth, to the contemplation only of that which is in heaven;*
- ✦ *and from an unmanly cowardice to a courageous disposition.*
St Cyril of Alexandria
- ✦ You should ask, “***How do I gain this gift?***”
- ✦ In the Church: By Sacraments, worship, prayer, rooting teachings deep in our hearts, and self-discipline controlling the passions.

Church

*9. In one, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic
Church*

The Ecclesia

- ◆ What is the Church?
 - * Not a **human-made** institution.
Not a building. Not a set of rules.
 - * A **living relationship** in union with Christ & participation in the Holy Spirit.
 - * Ecclesia ("εκκλησία") means the assembly derived from verb ekkaleo ("εκκαλέω") meaning "to gather".
 - * Jesus introduced into humanity Holy Spirit - giving powers, a new life to lead us back to union in love with Him, and these powers exist in Holy Church of God.
 - * Church is **living body** of Incarnate Divine Logos, body of Christ and home of the Holy Spirit.

The Ecclesia

- ✦ What is the primary task of the Church?
- ✦ St. Nikolai says: *Not... to rule, but ...to **minister** to the nations of God to point of martyrdom after the manner of Christ...;*
- ✦ *to **illuminate** the souls of men, to **guide** the moral life of men spiritually, to shine.*
- ✦ *Not to enslave but to **set free**. For all men are called to the freedom of Christ, to the freedom of the sons of God.*
- ✦ *As it is written: "You are no longer a slave but a son" (Gal. 4:7).*
- ✦ *And again: "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Gal. 5:1).*
- ✦ *As the **ark of salvation** the Church of God **transports** not slaves but free children, royal children, into the immortal heavenly kingdom...*

The Ecclesia

- ✿ What are some Images of Church from New Testament?
- ✿ *Grapevine and its branches* (John 15:1-8)
- ✿ *Shepherd and the flock* (John 10:1-16)
- ✿ *Head and the Body of Christ* (Eph 1:22-23)
- ✿ *A building under construction* (Eph 2:19-22)
- ✿ *A house or family* (1Tim 3:15)



Grapevine and its branches

- ✦ John: ... *“I am the **vine**, you are the **branches**. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*
- ✦ *If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.*
- ✦ *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.* (John

15:1-8)

Shepherd and the Flock

- ✦ John: *“I am the **good shepherd**. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep... I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own... and I lay down My life for the sheep.*
- ✦ *And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be **one flock** and one shepherd.* (John 10:1-16)

Head and Body

- ✦ Paul: *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him **to be head** over all things to the church, which is **His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.* (Eph 1:22-23)

Building Under Construction

- ✦ Paul: *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household of God**,*
- ✦ *having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the **chief cornerstone**,*
- ✦ *in whom the whole **building**, being fitted together, **grows** into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are **being built together** for a **dwelling place of God in the Spirit**. (Eph 2:19-22)*

House of Family

- ✿ *I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the **house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Tim 3:15)*
- ✿ *Christ as a Son over His own house, **whose house** we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. (Heb 3:6)*

Mystical

- ✿ Other symbolism:
Fishing net, field that has been sown, a ship on the sea, a marriage
- ✿ Church is **mystical** and beyond description.
- ✿ Has **no similarity** to anything else organized on earth.

Our Spiritual Home

- ✦ Why do we participate in the Church (Ecclesia)?
 - ✦ For our spiritual healing through the Holy Spirit and to be in communion with God.
- ✦ Christ is the Head, Founder, Foundation and Chief Priest.
Body of Christ. *“In Him we live.”* (Acts 17:28)
- ✦ Christ **sent** Holy Spirit.
- ✦ Apostles established Churches so Holy Spirit could **heal**.
- ✦ It **unites** us with Christ & lives in us through the sacraments.
- ✦ Holy Spirit is **active and alive** in Orthodox Church



Beginning

- ✦ How did His Church Begin on Earth?
- ✦ After Resurrection Jesus Christ promised to the Apostles To send Holy Spirit, Comforter, Who would remain with them forever.
- ✦ Also gave Apostles the grace-given power of the Holy Spirit:
“receive ye the Holy Spirit: whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.” (John 20:22-23)

What happened on Pentecost?

- ✦ Holy Spirit sent as He Promised.
- ✦ What gifts did this this bring?
- ✦ Extraordinary gifts: signs, healings, prophecies, gifts of tongues and powers to lead the faithful to spiritual perfection.
- ✦ Peter says, the Holy Spirit, divine power, has given us *“all things that pertain unto life and godliness”* (2 Peter 1:3)



The Earthly Church of Christ

- ✦ On Pentecost Apostles baptized about **3000** people.

- ✦ From this moment on Jerusalem, Palestine, then whole Roman Empire, and beyond began to be covered with churches.



- ✦ The Apostles appointed Bishops and presbyters and deacons giving their lives in this work.

The Ecclesia

- ✦ Does the Church exist in heaven?
- ✦ The church on earth is united with the church in heaven. Not separated from our dead brothers and sisters in faith by an impassable abyss of death.
- ✦ They are close to us in God, for *“all live unto him”* (Luke 20:38).

The Ecclesia

- ✿ Holy Apostles are still with us.
- ✿ They have put off their earthly bodies but not the Church body. Scripture says the Church is built on the *“foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. (Eph 2:20)*
- ✿ Even though they are in heaven they continue to be in communion with the believers on earth.

The Ecclesia

Church in Heaven

The Church Triumphant

- ✦ Church in Heaven is called Church Triumphant
- ✦ Before His departure Christ said to His disciples:

I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:2-3)

Those who who have left this life have wisdom of what they went through in this life. They do not cease to participate in the life of the militant Church. They can help us.

What doe we call the Church on Earth?

Creed

- ✿ I believe in *One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church*
- ✿ These are the **attributes** of the Church that make the Church Church.

One

- ✦ What does it mean there is one Church?
- ✦ a. When viewed from within itself is **not divided**.
- ✦ b. When viewed from without there is **none other** than itself.
- ✦ Paul: *there is one body and one Spirit... One lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all* (Eph 4:4-6)
- ✦ Jesus spoke of one flock, one sheepfold, one grapevine, one foundation stone.
- ✦ Before His suffering on the Cross He prayed “*that they all may be one.*” (John 17:21)

Holy

- ✿ What does it mean the Church is holy?
- ✿ Though its Head, **Jesus Christ** and by presence of the **Holy Spirit** the Church is holy.
- ✿ Christ *“loved the Church...that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”* (Eph 5:25-27)
- ✿ The body of the Church is holy as witnessed by the many **holy people** in it including all the martyrs, virgins, ascetics holy monks, nuns, hierarchs and righteous people.

Holy

- ✦ It's holy by its **purpose** as well as its **fruits**
- ✦ It's holy through the **infallibility** of its teachings of faith. It is "*The Church of the living God... pillar and **ground of truth*** (1 Tim 3:15)
- ✦ Its Holiness cannot be tainted by human sinfulness. It remains unchangeable.
- ✦ All are sinners, but it is the Church that judges us, calls us to repentance, leads us on the path of the Commandments.
- ✦ Church in its holiness guides sinners towards purification and Theosis.

Holy

- ✿ There is a boundary to the Church.
- ✿ Does not allow false teachings and heresies.
Guards the purity of the truth and excludes heretics and those who have separated themselves from the Church.
- ✿ Who are the heretics?
- ✿ Those who have corrupted the fundamental dogma of the faith. It exclude those who are atheists, apostates, and those sinners who will not repent.
- ✿ Quite different from modern social norms of being all inclusive. Is the Church is at odds with modern thought?
- ✿ Creed defines this boundary.

Catholic

- ✦ What does “Catholic” mean?
- ✦ Catholikos (καθολικός) is a word not commonly used before Christianity - Expresses its universal nature.
- ✦ Signifies highest degree of all-embracingness, wholeness, fullness.
- ✦ Corresponds with Paul’s words, “*the fulness of Him that filleth all in all*” (Eph 1:23)
- ✦ Not limited by place and embraces all people who believe in the Orthodox way no matter where they live
- ✦ Not limited by time or bound by any conditions of social order..

Apostolic

- ✦ What does Apostolic mean?
- ✦ Apostles mark the beginning of the Church.
- ✦ They planted the seed for the spread of Christianity throughout the world.
- ✦ Preserved and transmitted to the Church the Christian teaching of faith and life as they had received it from Christ.
- ✦ Through commandment of Jesus they established sacred rites of the Church initiating performance of Holy Communion with Blood and Body of Christ, Baptism and Ordination.

Apostolic

- ✦ Established the Grace-given succession of the episcopate as “*stewards of the Mysteries of God.*” (I Cor 4:1)
- ✦ Established beginning of canonical structure of Church life everything should be done “*decently and in order.*” (I Cor 14:40)
- ✦ Not only are they historically significant but they remain in the Church now, in heaven but in communion with believers on earth.

Fullness of Apostolic Faith

In Orthodox Church there is **unbroken historical continuity**.

Scripture, Holy Tradition and Ecumenical Councils maintained the Faith as taught by the Apostles.

Fullness of Apostolic Faith

- ✿ What did Jesus bring and leave with us?
- ✿ He didn't write anything, so he did not come to leave us a book.
- ✿ Brought Salvation - return to Paradise - union with God - Theosis.
- ✿ Established Church on Earth for us to work out our salvation.
- ✿ Orthodox Christianity is not based on a Book but on Jesus Christ and His Holy Church.

Early Church

- ✦ After Pentecost Many Baptized
- ✦ *“Devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.”* (Acts 2:42)
- ✦ Daily worship
- ✦ Shared all with each other
- ✦ Praised God and were *“held in esteem by all the people.”*
- ✦ Members were added each day.

The Beginnings

The Early Church - Foundation

- ✦ Where was first Church?
- ✦ Apostles healed in the name of Jesus - led to their persecution.
- ✦ *“They were filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaimed the word of God with boldness”* (Acts 4:31)
- ✦ Persecution led to spread of Faith - Saint Stephen the 1st of many martyrs.
 - ✦ Jews and Gentiles become Christians
 - ✦ Persecutor Saul converted - Paul
 - ✦ Paul & Apostles head missions in far lands & face Martyrdom.

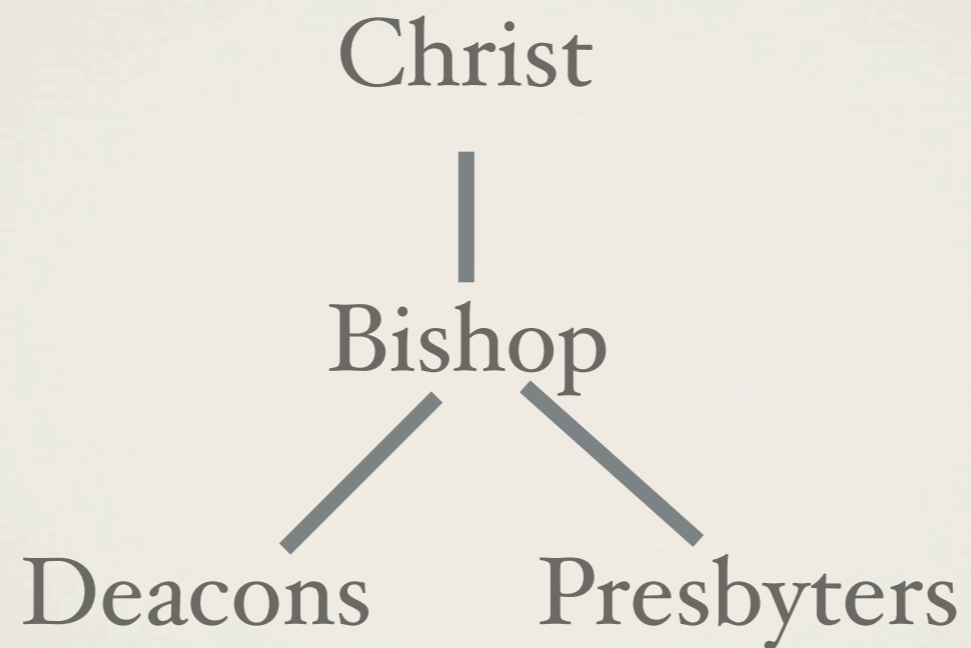


The Beginnings

Early Church Organization

- ✦ Church Administration
 - ✦ Determined in part by Roman Government - Cities
 - ✦ Bishop head of Church in each city
 - ✦ Bishop assisted by Priest, Deacons
 - ✦ Authority of Bishop supreme (Ignatius, 107)
- ✦ Church as Local Community
 - ✦ Eucharistic Society
 - ✦ Local Church, fulness of Church
- ✦ Church is Universal - One Episcopate
 - ✦ Many churches - One Church
 - ✦ Many Bishops - One Episcopate

Hierarchy



Scripture
Ecumenical Council
Tradition

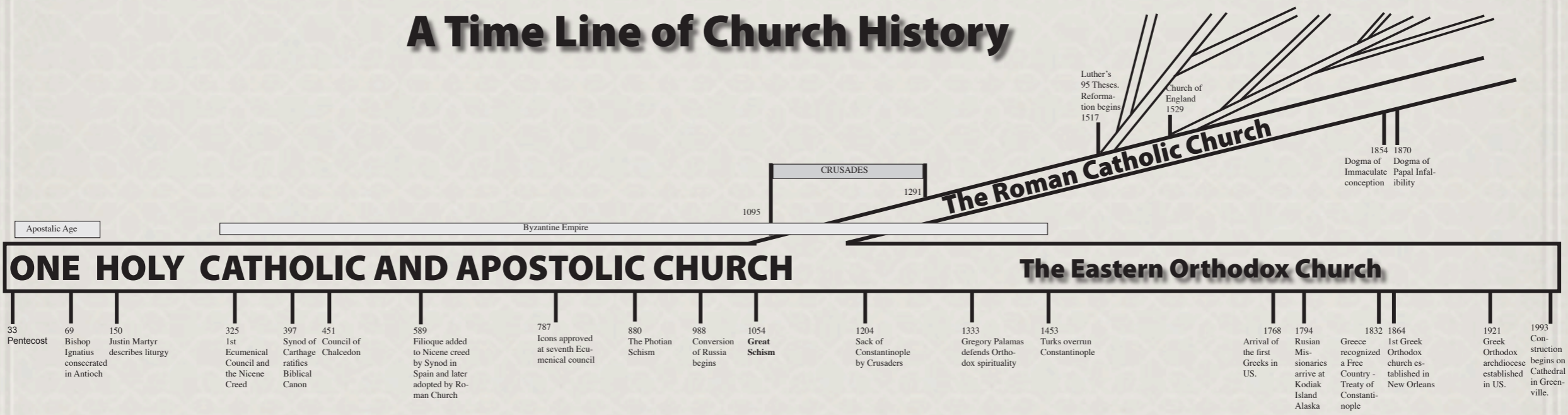
Hierarchy

- ✦ The Apostles placed **Bishops** as their immediate successors
- ✦ **Presbyters** (elders - priests) from Apostolic times the second degree of the hierarchy - helpers of the bishops.
- ✦ Apostle James tells us that presbyters perform the Church's sacred rites, and that in the early church there could be several presbyters in each community. *Is any sick among you? Let him call for the presbyters of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.* (James 5:14)

Hierarchy

- ✦ Third hierarchal degree is the **deacon**.
- ✦ Seven in number where chosen by the community in Jerusalem and ordained by the Apostles.
- ✦ To help the Apostles in practical, secondary activity: entrusted to “*serve tables*” to give out food, and be concerned for the widows.
- ✦ Appointed by bishops (1 Tim 3:8-13)
- ✦ Justin Martyr (150A.D.) writes: *Those called deacons among us give to each of those present communion of the Bread upon which has been performed the Thanksgiving (Eucharist) and of the Wine and the Water, and they carry them out to those who are absent.”*

A Time Line of Church History



Fullness of Apostolic Faith

Orthodox Church faithfully maintains the Apostolic Faith

- ✦ Apostolic succession - Saint Andrew
- ✦ Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew - 270th
- ✦ Church of the Seven Councils
- ✦ Roman Church introduced numerous innovations
 - Filioque Clause
 - Immaculate conception of Mary
 - Infallibility of Pope
- ✦ Protestant churches regularly change teachings.
Now over 38,000 Christian denominations.
- ✦ Is there One Church?

Fullness of Apostolic Faith

Faithfully maintains the Tradition with worship directed toward Trinitarian God

- ✦ Early Church adopted Jewish Liturgical Day with set times of prayer and a yearly calendar of fasts and feasts.
- ✦ Worship is a sacrifice directed towards God.
Not congregation centered where clergy minister to the people but rather lead them to God.
- ✦ Liturgical form can be traced back to 2nd century.
- ✦ All Sacraments maintained

Fullness of Apostolic Faith

- ✦ Orthodox Church has historical Apostolic continuity.
- ✦ Sound unchanging doctrine - Church of 7 Councils.
- ✦ Withstood Islamic occupation and Communist oppression - Cannot be suppressed.
- ✦ Church is Body of Christ & as members we become part of Him.
- ✦ Church and its Sacraments and ascetic teachings are for our healing.
- ✦ Church honored and trusted as a most precious gift.



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