

Western and Eastern Fathers of the Church

WESTERN

St. Ambrose

339 – 397 AD

- St. Ambrose was the Bishop of Milan in the 4th century, and is known as an incredible theologian, statesman, and public figure.
- He is remembered for his ardent opposition to Arianism and Paganism, and defense of Christianity.
- Known as a Doctor and Father of the Church, and venerated as the patron saint of Milan.

St. Jerome

342 – 420 AD

- Father and Doctor of the Church, remembered for his life as a priest, confessor, theologian, translator, and historian.
- Well known for his translation of the Bible into the Latin Vulgate, and extensive writings on the Christian moral life.
- Patron of bible scholars, librarians, students, and translators.

St. Augustine

354 – 430 AD

- Bishop of Hippo and a prominent philosopher and theologian, profoundly influential on both Western Christianity and Philosophy
- Remembered as both a Father and Doctor of the Church.
- Most prominent works include Confessions, The City of God, and On Christian Doctrine.
- Considered as the patron of theologians, philosophers, and of the Augustinians.

St. Gregory the Great

540 – 604 AD

- 64th Bishop of Rome, both a Latin Father and Doctor of the Church
- Called Saint Gregory the Dialogist for his extensive writings
- Also known as the “Father of Christian Worship,” for his numerous contributions to the development of Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite.
- Patron of teachers, students, and musicians.

EASTERN

St. John Chrysostom

347 – 407 AD

- St. John Chrysostom is the Patron of Orators, Preachers, and Speakers
- Remembered as the greatest preacher in Church history – his name actually means “golden-mouthed.”
- Archbishop of Constantinople, and prominent early Father and Doctor of the Church!

St. Basil the Great

329-379 AD

- Bishop of Caesarea and prominent theologian who ardently fought against the Arian Heresy, and firmly supported the Nicene Creed, as well as the divinity of Christ.
- Patron of Russia, Cappadocia, monks, education, and reformers.
- Known as a Cappadocian Father, the Father of Communal Monasticism, and Doctor of the Church.

St. Athanasius

296-373 AD

- Also known as Athanasius the Apostolic, Athanasius of Alexandria, and “the Father of Orthodoxy.”
- 20th Pope of Alexandria and a venerated Father of the Church.
- He is remembered for his work as a theologian, leader, ardent opponent of the Arian Heresy, and recognized as a “true pillar of the Church” after his death by St. Gregory Nazianzus.

St. Gregory Nazianzus

325- 389 AD

- Archbishop of Constantinople in the 4th century, and a prominent theologian, orator, and opponent of Arianism.
- Remembered as the “Trinitarian Theologian” for his work on Trinitarian theology, and as a Cappadocian Father and Doctor of the Church.
- Revered as one of only three designated as “Theologian” in the Orthodox Church.