

Foundational Resources

Welcome to **Foundations of Orthodox Christianity**.

To fully participate in the course, we recommend obtaining the following books:

The Orthodox Study Bible: Ancient Christianity Speaks to Today's World

The Ancient Faith Prayer Book

and at least one of the following catechism books:

If you are brand new to Orthodoxy or Christianity, we recommend:

Welcome to the Orthodox Church: An Introduction to Eastern Orthodoxy
by Frederica Matthewes-Green

If you are coming from a Catholic or Protestant background, we recommend:

Know the Faith: A Handbook for Orthodox Christians and Inquirers
by Rev. Fr. Michael Shanbour

If you are a long-term Orthodox Christian, we recommend:

The Living God: A Catechism, Volumes 1 & 2
by M. Olivier Clement

Check with Meredith at **The Good Shepherd Bookstall** or purchase from **Amazon.com.au**.

The Foundation Stone

This session's talk covered the following points

Introduction to the Church

- People vs place
- Social Identity - The Good Shepherd / Eastern Orthodoxy
- Continuity in history, worship, doctrine and sanctity

Apostles as witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection

- They saw His Life
- They had communion with Him
- They saw Him die
- They saw Him live again
- In their minds, the resurrection justified His claims
- They proclaimed this Faith throughout the world
- They were martyred for their faith
- In many people's minds, this is an excellent proof that Jesus rose again

Commissioning

- He commissioned the Apostles — blessed them with the Holy Spirit
- The entire Church was charismatically blessed at Pentecost
- The Holy Spirit led them into all Truth
- Apostles appointed presbyters in all local churches

Constitution of the Church

- Founded on the Prophets & Apostles with Jesus Christ as the Corner Stone
- People flocked to partake of the Teachings, the Fellowship, the Breaking of Bread and the Prayers
- Church is the pillar and foundation of the Truth

Mystical identity of the Church

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Church as the Bride of Christ
- Church as the Temple of God
- Church as a Kingdom of Priests
- Church as a Hospital for the Wounded
- Church as Unison of Praise (Thanksgiving)

For the sake of joy

- The Apostles had direct personal contact with Jesus
- This brought them great joy
- Their joy is made complete by extending Fellowship to those who are called

Further reading

We would encourage you to deepen your understanding by reading the corresponding topic in your catechism book:

Chapter 4: Upon This Rock *in* **Welcome to the Orthodox Church: An Introduction to Eastern Orthodoxy** by Frederica Matthewes-Green

Chapter 1: The Church *in* **Know the Faith: A Handbook for Orthodox Christians and Inquirers** by Rev. Fr. Michael Shanbour

Chapter 22: The Church *in* **The Living God: A Catechism, Volume 2** by M. Olivier Clement

And to read the following single-page articles in the **Orthodox Study Bible**

The Church, p. 1604

The Four “Orders” in Church Government, p. 1635

Additional resources

For those who want to go deeper into this topic.

Articles

Appendix A: Presbyters and Bishops, p. 571–582 &
Appendix B: Church and Apostles, p. 583–625
in **Eastern Orthodox Bible: New Testament**

Youtube

Frank Shaeffer: The Defense of Orthodoxy Against Protestantism

Part 1 — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4YP-4oZ3ml>

Part 2 — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLtApJdxcBQ>

Part 3 — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDOBPij4SGU>

An Orthodox Perspective on Roman Catholicism

Patristic Nectar Films — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6zXs_cUSjQ

Audio

Orthodoxy 101: An Introduction by Subdeacon Tim Grace

https://www.ancientfaith.com/specials/exploring_orthodoxy/orthodoxy_101_an_introduction

Blogs

The New Testament Church Today by Fr. Jon E. Braun

<https://www.thegoodshepherd.org.au/new-testament-church-today>

The Temptations of Church by Fr. Stephen Freeman

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/glory2godforallthings/2011/03/07/the-temptations-of-church/>

Ecclesiastical Hierarchy

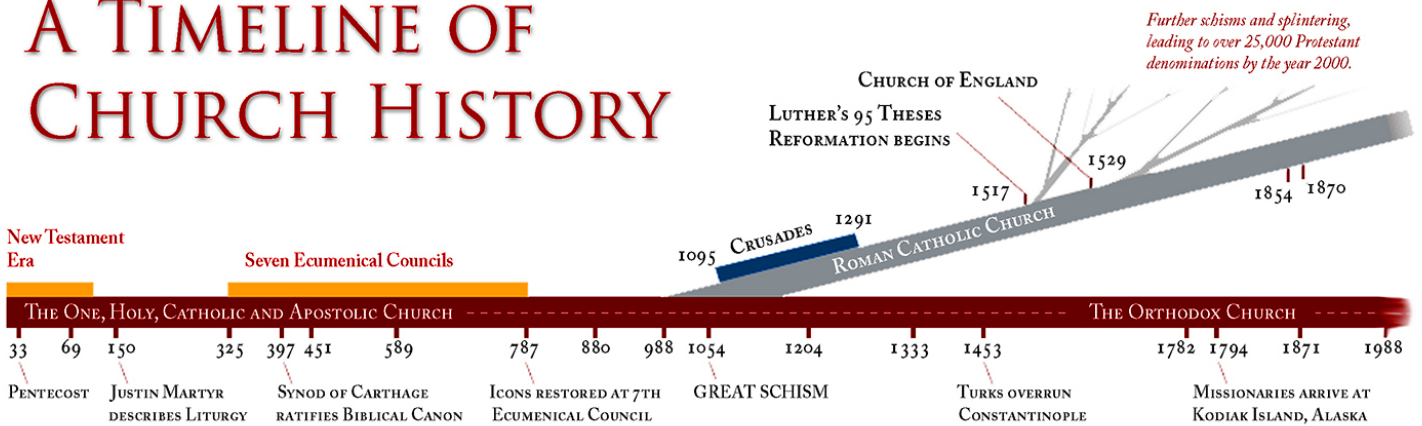
<i>Order</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Bishop	Patriarch
	Archbishop
	Metropolitan
	Bishop
	Titular Bishop (i.e. Assistant to a Bishop)
Presbyter / Priest	Archimandrite (An honour given to some Hieromonks)
	Protropresbyter / Protopriest
	Archpriest
	Hieromonk (Priest Monk)
	Presbyter / Priest
Deacon	Protodeacon
	Archdeacon
	Hierodeacon (Deacon Monk)
	Deacon
<i>Minor Orders</i>	Subdeacon
	Reader

Churches Comprising the Eastern Orthodox Communion

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
 Patriarchate of Alexandria
 Patriarchate of Antioch
 Patriarchate of Jerusalem
 Patriarchate of Moscow
 Patriarchate of Serbia
 Patriarchate of Romania
 Patriarchate of Bulgaria
 Patriarchate of Georgia
 Archdiocese of Cyprus
 Archdiocese of Greece
 Metropolia of Poland
 Archdiocese of Albania
 Metropolia of the Czech Lands and Slovakia
 Metropolia in America

Source: Eastern Orthodox Bible p. 624, 625

A TIMELINE OF CHURCH HISTORY



Source: <https://cvresurrection.org/our-faith/history/>

List of Primates (bishops and patriarchs) of Antioch

1. St. [Peter the Apostle](#) (c.45-c.53)
2. St. [Euodios](#) (c.53-c.68)
3. St. [Ignatius I](#) (c.68-100)
4. [Heros I](#) (100-c.127)
5. [Cornelius](#) (c.127-c.151)
6. [Heros II](#) (c.151-c.169)
7. [Theophilus](#) (c.169-182)
8. [Maximianus I](#) (182-191)
9. [Serapion](#) (191-212)
10. [Aslipiades](#) (212-218)
11. [Philetos](#) (218-231)
12. [Zebinnus Ozniophios](#) (232-240)
13. St. [Babylas](#) (240-253)
14. [Fabius](#) (253-256)
15. [Demetrianos](#) (256-263)
16. [Amphilokhos](#) (263-267)
17. [Paul of Samosata](#) (267-270)
18. [Domnus I](#) (270-273)
19. [Timaeos](#) (273-277)
20. [Cyril](#) (277-299)
21. [Tyrannos](#) (299-308)
22. [Vitalius I](#) (308-314)
23. St. [Philogonius](#) (314-324)
24. [Paulinus of Tyre](#) (324-325)
25. St. [Eustathius](#) (325-332)
26. [Paulinus of Tyre](#) (332)
27. [Eulalios](#) (332)
28. [Euphronios](#) (333-334)
29. [Philaclus](#) (334-341)
30. [Stephen I](#) (341-345)
31. [Leontius](#) (345-350)
32. [Eudoxius](#) (350-354)
33. [Meletius](#) (354), who later attended the [First Council of Constantinople](#)
34. [Eudoxius](#) (354-357)
35. [Annias](#) or [Ammianus](#) (357-360)
36. [Eudozius](#) (360-370)
37. [Dorotheus](#) (370-371)
38. [Paulinus](#) (371-376)
39. [Vitalius](#) (376-384)
40. St. [Flavian I](#) (384-404)
41. [Porphyry](#) (404-408)
42. [Alexander](#) (408-418)
43. [Theodotus](#) (418-427)
44. [John I](#) (427-443)
45. [Domnus II](#) (443-450)
46. [Maximus II](#) (450-455)
The bishopric of Antioch was raised to the rank of a Patriarchate by the [Council of Chalcedon](#) in 451.
47. [Basil](#) (455-459)
48. [Acacius](#) (459-461)
49. [Martyrius](#) (461-465)
50. [Peter the Fuller](#) (465-466)
51. [Julian](#) (466-474)
52. [Peter the Fuller](#) (474-475)
53. [John II](#) (475-490)
54. [Stephen II](#) (490-493)
55. [Stephen III](#) (493-495)
56. [Callandion](#) (495)
57. [John III \(Codonatus\)](#) (495-497)
58. [Palladius](#) (497-505)
59. [Flavian II](#) (505-513)
60. [Severus](#) (513-518)
In 518, Severus, a non-Chalcedonian, was [deposed](#) by the [Church of Antioch](#). While in exile in Egypt, he was recognized by some Syriac Christians as the lawful Patriarch until his death in 538. In 544, Jacob Baradeus, another non-Chalcedonian, consecrated Sergius of Tella as Patriarch of what became called the [Syriac Orthodox Church](#). Thus, until the year 518, both those who became the Syriac Orthodox Church and the Church of Antioch recognized the same bishops as legitimate patriarchs, while afterwards, they trace different lineages.
61. [Paul II](#) (518-521)
62. [Euphrasius](#) (521-526)
63. St. [Ephraim](#) (526-546)
64. [Domnus III](#) (546-561)
65. St. [Anastasius the Sinaite](#) (561-571)
66. [Gregory](#) (571-594)
67. St. [Anastasius the Sinaite](#) (594-599)
68. St. [Anastasius II](#) (599-610)
69. [Gregory II](#) (610-620)
70. [Anastasius III](#) (620-628)
71. [Macedonius](#) (628-640)
72. [George I](#) (640-656)
73. [Macarius](#) (656-681)
74. [Theophanes](#) (681-687)
75. [Sebastian](#) (687-690)
76. [George II](#) (690-695)
77. [Alexander II](#) (695-702)
Vacancy due to the Muslim conquests: 702-742
78. [Stephen IV](#) (742-748)
79. [Theophylact](#) (748-767)
80. [Theodore I](#) (767-797)
81. [John IV](#) (797-810)
82. [Job I](#) (810-826)
83. [Nicholas](#) (826-834)
84. [Simeon](#) (834-840)

85. [Elias](#) (840-852)
86. [Theodosius I](#) (852-860)
87. [Nicholas II](#) (860-879)
88. [Michael](#) (879-890)
89. [Zacharias](#) (890-902)
90. [George III](#) (902-917)
91. [Job II](#) (917-939)
92. [Eustratius](#) (939-960)
93. [Christopher](#) (960-966)
94. [Theodorus II](#) (966-977)
95. [Agapius](#) (977-995)
96. [John IV](#) (995-1000)
97. [Nicholas III](#) (1000-1003)
98. [Elias II](#) (1003-1010)
99. [George Lascaris](#) (1010-1015)
100. [Macarius the Virtuous](#) (1015-1023)
101. [Eleutherius](#) (1023-1028)
102. [Peter III](#) (1028-1051)
103. [John VI](#), also known as *Dionysus* (1051-1062)
104. [Aemilian](#) (1062-1075)
105. [Theodosius II](#) (1075-1084)
106. [Nicephorus](#) (1084-1090)
107. [John VII the Oxite](#) (1090-1155)
108. [John IX](#) (1155-1159)
109. [Euthymius](#) (1159-1164)
110. [Macarius II](#) (1164-1166)
111. [Athanasius I](#) (1166-1180)
112. [Theodosius III](#) (1180-1182)
113. [Elias III](#) (1182-1184)
114. [Christopher II](#) (1184-1185)
In 1185, due to the Crusades, the Patriarchate moved into exile at Constantinople.
115. [Theodore IV \(Balsamon\)](#) (1185-1199)
116. [Joachim](#) (1199-1219)
117. [Dorotheus](#) (1219-1245)
118. [Simeon II](#) (1245-1268)
119. [Euthymius II](#) (1268-1269)
In 1269, the Patriarchate returned to Antioch.
120. [Theodosius IV](#) (1269-1276)
121. [Theodosius V](#) (1276-1285)
122. [Arsenius](#) (1285-1293)
123. [Dionysius](#) (1293-1308)
124. [Mark](#) (1308-1342)
In 1342, with the city of Antioch in ruins due to numerous battles, the Patriarchate permanently moved to Damascus.
125. [Ignatius II](#) (1342-1386)
126. [Pachomius](#) (1386-1393)
127. [Nilus](#) (1393-1401)
128. [Michael III](#) (1401-1410)
129. [Pachomius II](#) (1410-1411)
130. [Joachim II](#) (1411-1426)
131. [Mark III](#) (1426-1436)
132. [Dorotheus II](#) (1436-1454)
133. [Michael IV](#) (1454-1476)
134. [Mark IV](#) (1476)
135. [Joachim III](#) (1476-1483)
136. [Gregory III](#) (1483-1497)
137. [Dorotheus III](#) (1497-1523)
138. [Michael V](#) (1523-1541)
139. [Dorotheus IV](#) (1541-1543)
140. [Joachim IV \(Ibn Juma\)](#) (1543-1576)
141. [Michael VI \(Sabbagh\)](#) (1577-1581)
142. [Joachim V](#) (1581-1592)
143. [Joachim VI](#) (1593-1604)
144. [Dorotheus V](#) (1604-1611)
145. [Athanasius II \(Dabbas\)](#) (1611-1619)
146. [Ignatius III \(Attiyah\)](#) (1619-1634)
147. [Euthymius III](#) (1634-1635)
148. [Euthymius IV](#) (1635-1648)
149. [Macarius III \(Zaim\)](#) (1648-1672)
150. [Neophytos](#) (1673-1684)
151. [Athanasius III \(Dabbas\)](#) (1685-1694)
152. [Cyril III \(Zaim\)](#) (1694-1720)
153. [Athanasius III \(Dabbas\)](#) (1720-1724)
154. [Sylvester](#) (1724-1766)
155. [Philemon](#) (1766-1767)
156. [Daniel](#) (1767-1791)
157. [Euthymius V](#) (1792-1813)
158. [Seraphim](#) (1813-1823)
159. [Methodius](#) (1823-1850)
160. [Hierotheos](#) (1850-1885)
161. [Gerasimus](#) (1885-1891)
162. [Spyridon](#) (1892-1898)
163. [Meletius II \(Doumani\)](#) (1899-1906)¹⁷
164. [Gregory IV \(Haddad\)](#) (1906-1928)
165. [Alexander III \(Tahan\)](#) (1928-1958)
166. [Theodosius VI \(Abourjaily\)](#) (1958-1970)
167. [Elias IV \(Muawad\)](#) (1970-1979)
168. [Ignatius IV \(Hazim\)](#) (1979-2012)
169. [John X \(Yazigi\)](#) (2012-present)

¹⁷ The First Patriarch of Arabic Descent