

St. Therese Catholic Church

Church History
Fr. Leonard Andrie

December 21, 2021

St. Therese Parish

Epic: Timeline Bookmark (12 Periods – Color Coded)

WEAK LEADERS & SCHISM Black: Dark Time of the Church	PROTESTORS & DEFENDERS Orange: Willom of Orange	THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION Gold: Holy Saints Reform the Church	REVOLUTIONS & MODERNISM Gray: Clouds of Industry & Intellectual Confusion	A WORLD AT WAR Bright Red: Color of Fascism and Communism	THE NEW SPRINGTIME Bright Green: The Springtime of Renewal	THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE Marian Blue: Pope John Paul II & Mary Our Lady of Hope
1300–1499	1500–1544	1545–1699	1700–1913	1914–1957	1958–1977	1978–Present
Vienne (1311–1312) Constance (1414–1418) Florence (1431–1445)	Lateran V (1512–1517)	Trent (1545–1563)	Vatican I (1869–1870)		Vatican II (1962–1965)	
	MUSTARD SEED Mustard Yellow: Parable of the Kingdom of God (Mt. 4:20 – 32)	PERSECUTION Dark Red: Blood of the Martyrs	CONVERSION & COUNCILS White: Empire Clothed White in Christ	MISSIONARIES & THE EMPEROR Purple: Royalty of the Holy Roman Emperor	CRUSADERS & SCHOLARS Navy Blue: Color of France: Land of Crusaders	
	33–99	100–312	313–499	500–999	1000–1299	
			Nicaea I (325) Constantinople I (381) Ephesus (431) Chalcedon (451)	Constantinople II (553) Constantinople III (680) Nicaea II (787) Constantinople IV (869)	Lateran I (1123) Lateran II (1129) Lateran III (1179) Lateran IV (1215) Lyons I (1245) Lyons II (1274)	

<https://ascensionpress.com/products/epic-a-journey-through-church-history-timeline-bookmark>



St. Therese Parish

Conversions (AD 313 – 499)

- Total of 8 ecumenical councils during this time (40%) of 21 total
- Determine what terms and language Church uses to describe Jesus.
- Period produces 13 doctors of the Church.
- Saint: Bishop theologians





St. Therese Parish

- Four ecumenical councils answer the question: “Who is Jesus?”
 - Councils of Nicaea I (325)
 - Council of Constantinople (381)
 - Council of Ephesus (431)
 - Council of Chalcedon (451)
- Determine language the Church will use to describe who Jesus is.



St. Therese Parish

- **Charles Dickens:** “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.” ~*A Tale of Two Cities*
- For Christians, the 4th century was the best of times and the worst of times.



St. Therese Parish

Diocletian (Political Structure Changes)

- Divided the empire in two. The western half encompassed what became Europe and parts of North Africa. The eastern half of the Empire contained Greece, Asia Minor, the Holy Land and Egypt.
- Smaller jurisdictions in each half of the Empire, named “dioceses” after himself (12 in all ruled by a vicar).
- Created a tetrarchy (political structure) based on four rulers, two emperors (each half of the empire) and two caesars as deputies to the emperors. When an emperor died, the Caesar automatically became emperor (74).

St. Therese Parish





St. Therese Parish

- Constantius (305-306) is the Western Augustus and Maxentius is the Caesar (second).
 - **Note:** Constantius is the father of Constantine.
- Constantius dies and Maxentius should be emperor. Instead, British legions appoint Constantine (Constantius son as Augustus).
- Civil war ensues in the Western half of the empire between Constantine and Maxentius.



St. Therese Parish

- Constantine in England and rallies armies in Gaul.
- Maxentius is in Rome, fortified and outnumbers Constantine.
- Generals tell Constantine not to march on Rome, but he goes against their counsel.
- A big battle will result between the two.

St. Therese Parish



Constantine

Vs.



Maxentius

St. Therese Parish

- On the way through Gaul, they see a sign in the sky and words around the cross.
- *In hoc signo vinces* – In this sign, you will conquer.
- Soldiers paint Greek Chi-Rhoi (X and P) on their shields.
- The first two letters of Greek Christós – (Xp).



<https://www.shieldsofstrength.com/blog/the-cross-in-the-sky/>





St. Therese Parish

- **Irony:** The Roman army had been the instrument of persecution against Christians.
- Less than a decade earlier, they had killed thousands of Christians.
- Now, troops from this same organization marched into battle with the sign of Christ on their shields. The victor of the coming fight could lay sole claim to the western throne (84).



Battle of Milvian Bridge

- Battle takes place on October 28, 312.
- Maxentius goes to pagan priests who tell him that the “enemy of the Romans would die that day.” He assumes it was Constantine. Maxentius was very unpopular in Rome.
- Destroys all the bridges across the Tiber River destroyed except the Milvian bridge. It had been partially destroyed, so his forces crossed the Tiber on a wooden pontoon bridge.



St. Therese Parish

- Engage in battle and Constantine pushes Maxentius back to the wooden pontoon bridge. Bridge collapses and Maxentius drowns. Body dragged out of the river and cut off his head.





St. Therese Parish

- Constantine becomes Augustus of the West. He attributes victory to the Christian God.
- Donates property to the Church – Lateran Palace to the bishop of Rome.
- Today, this is St. John Lateran, the pope's cathedral!
- Passed Edict of Milan in AD 313.
- Christians can practice their religion.
- Eradicates Nero law of AD 64.





St. Therese Parish

- *Caesaro-Papism*: The emperor reigned supreme in both the temporal and spiritual realms. Very problematic in eastern half of the empire.
- Emperor gets heavily involved in the Church, including:
 - Appointing bishops
 - Inserts himself in theological disputes



St. Therese Parish

- Legislated Christian morality
- Crucifixion was outlawed
- Chastity laws enacted
- *Pater familias* outlawed – father could refuse child
- Sunday legal holiday; exempted Church from taxes
- Prohibited gladiatorial games
- Appointed Christians positions of importance

Constantine



<https://www.thoughtco.com/was-constantine-a-christian-117848>

- There was a dark side to Constantine: personal ambition, power, and control.



St. Therese Parish

- Constantine embraced the Faith, and received instruction under the spiritual guidance of bishop Hosius of Cordova (257 – 358).
- Constantine did not receive baptism until on his deathbed in 337 (85).
 - **Note:** It was not uncommon for people to put off baptism given that it removed all sins. Additionally, the Church strict about readmitting people who had committed grievous sins. You could readmitted one time.



St. Therese Parish

- How does the Church view Constantine?
 - **Orthodox Church:** Constantine is regarded as a saint.
 - **Catholics:** Constantine is not regarded as a saint, but acknowledge his role in helping Christianity become widely accepted.



St. Therese Parish

- **Key:** While the Church will no longer be attacked from the outside, for the next 150 years it will be attacked from heresy.
- In every age, the Church has a particular challenge and question(s) to answer.
- Previously, it was “How deal with those who lapsed?” In this time, it is the question, “Who is Jesus?” and “How explain faith to Gentile converts coming in large numbers?”



Donatist Controversy

- **Rigorists:** *Lapsi* should not be readmitted to communion. They should be excommunicated. Clergy should forfeit their ecclesiastical office. Lapsed clergy could not validly celebrate the sacraments. Position was held widely in North Africa, a site of intense persecution (87).
- **Laxists:** *Lapsi* should undergo a period of penance before readmittance to the Church.



St. Therese Parish

Donatist Controversy

- **Donatus:** Rigorist objected to Caecilian, bishop of Carthage, was null and void because ordained by Felix (*lapsi*) – supposedly handed over the Scriptures.
- Rigorists elected Donatus bishop instead. We now have two bishops in Carthage and a schism in the Church in Africa.
- Constantine hears the case as he wants unity in the empire. Donatus eventually condemned and excommunicated.



St. Therese Parish

Edict of Milan

- Nero's law instituted 300 years earlier prohibited Christians from the legal right to practice their faith.
- Constantine meets with Licinius, eastern Emperor, and issued a joint declaration on religion, granting Christians and others, full authority to observe that religion which each preferred. The Faith was legalized and placed on equal footing with pagan cults (89).



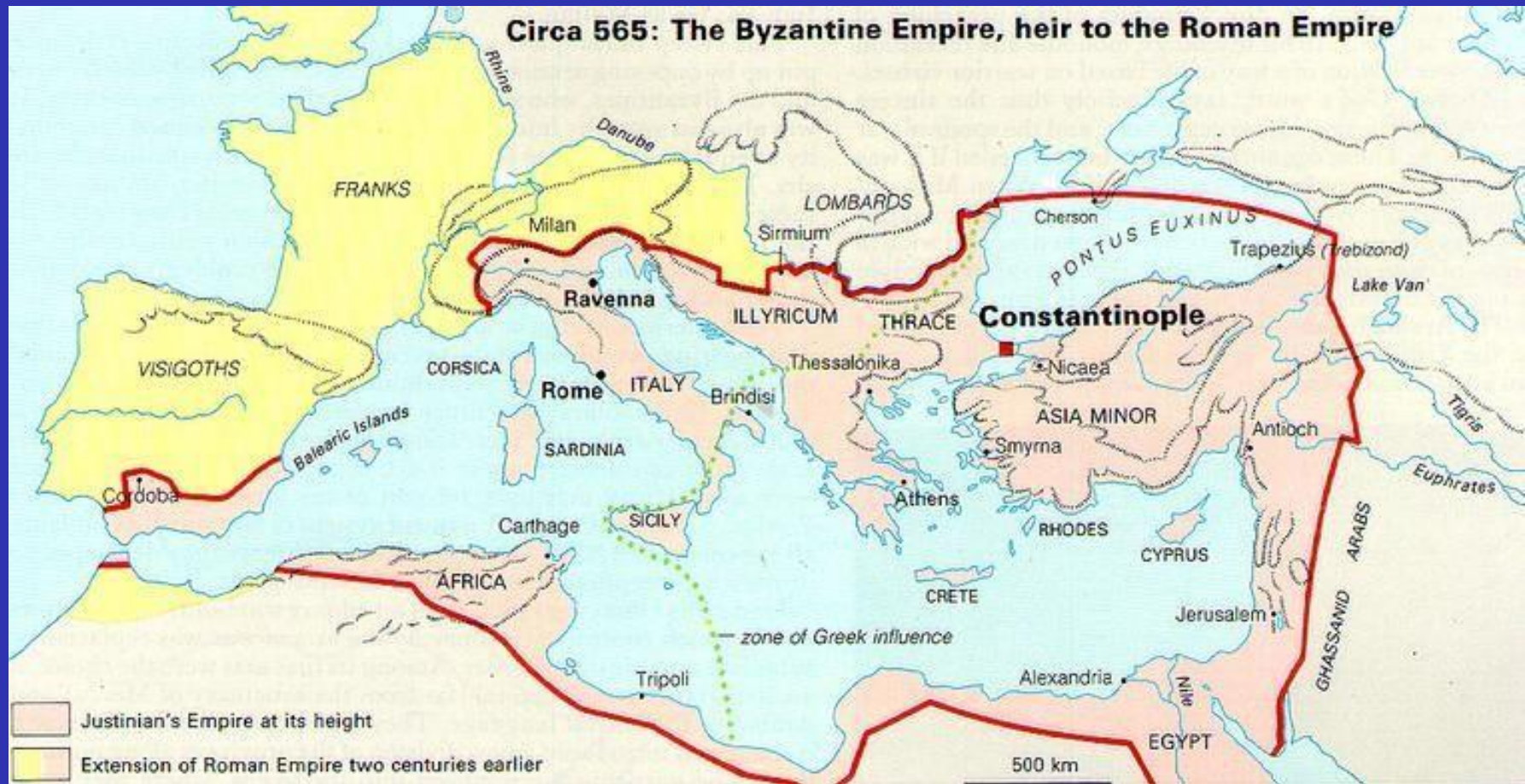
St. Therese Parish

Sole Emperor

- Licinius, eastern emperor, initiated persecution of Christians. This was influenced by childhood friend Galerius (initiator of the Great Persecution).
- Constantine battles Licinius at Battle of Adrianople on July 3, 324. Licinius loses and is executed a year later (90).
- Constantine becomes sole emperor and builds “New Rome” in 330 as new capital seat of the Empire. It would later become Constantinople.

St. Therese Parish

Constantinople – New Rome





St. Therese Parish

- In this new capital or new Rome (Christian Rome), there would be no pagan temples.
- Constantine moved to Constantinople (Istanbul) in 330 to dedicate the city.
- Before moving there, he gave the pope the Lateran Palace, which would become St. John Lateran or the pope's cathedral. Popes resided there until about 1450 when they went to the Vatican.



St. Therese Parish

- **Heresy:** The obstinate denial or doubt, after baptism, or a truth which must be believed with divine and Catholic faith.
 - Previous valid baptism
 - External profession of still being a Christian
 - Outright denial or positive doubt regarding a truth that the Catholic Church has actually proposed as revealed by God;
 - Disbelief must be morally culpable



Arius the Heretic

- Priest named Arius lives in Alexandria, Egypt. He is a dynamic preacher and personality.
- Knowing that Greco-Roman philosophy struggled with the Trinity, he begins preaching that the Father is the only true God.
- **Arianism:** Jesus is not God, only God the Father is God. The Son is only a creature, made out of nothing.
- **Key:** God is not always Father, and there was a time when the Son was not in existence (92).



St. Therese Parish

- Arianism is a Trinitarian controversy in the 320s. For Arius, the Son was created out of the non-being (Gk: *ex ouk ontōn*).
- In other words, the Son was “made” like the rest of the creation yet before the rest of creation. The Son was “willed” into existence by the Father.
- Arius rejected the controversial term (*homoousios*) “consubstantial.”
- **Key:** Arius appealed to the Scriptures (Prov. 8:22-25 – Wisdom was created).



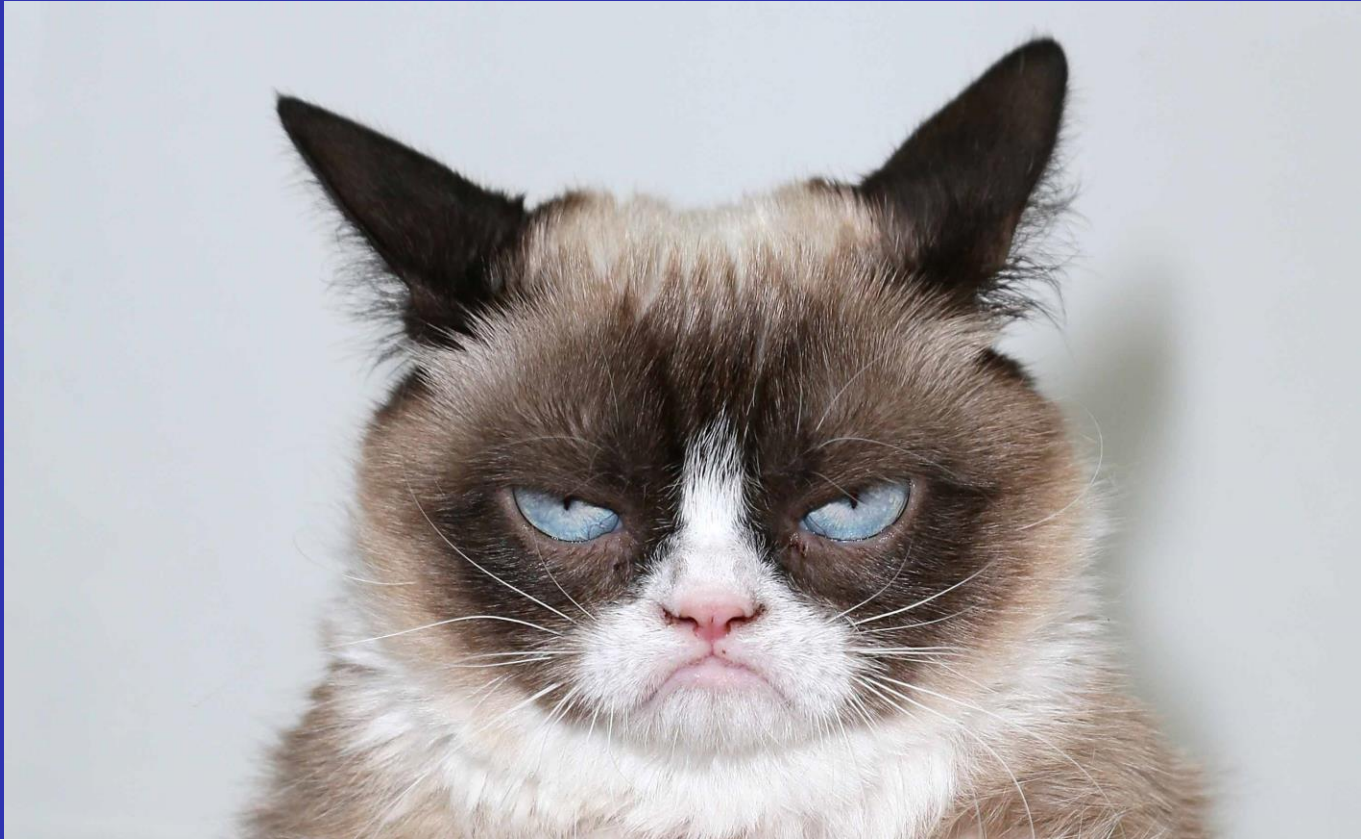
Arius the Heretic

- **Arianism:** Serious error in teaching that Jesus, as Son, is not God. Instead, He is the most perfect creature. He is not co-eternal with God.
- The Spirit, too, was created and the most second most perfect creature (92).
- **Key:** The Son and the Holy Spirit are not coeternal with the Father. Arius' teachings caused quite a stir and reached Constantine.



St. Therese Parish

Arius the Heretic





Arianism Spreads

- **Peace:** Empire was at peace so the people were disposed to engage in popular debate about theological questions. Some based their arguments on Scripture. Is Arius or Church right?
- **St. Jerome:** Everyone had become their own Scripture scholar: Builders, carpenters, workers in material and wood, websters and fullers, makers of anything cannot become an expert without a teacher; physicians are trained by physicians. The art of Scripture is the only art claimed by all (93).
- **Nobles:** Adopt Arianism because they wanted to be different from common people. They want to be Christian, but not like the rest of society.



St. Therese Parish

- **Army:** This was important to the life of the empire. The army was the cement that held the Roman Empire together. As a whole, the army became solidly Arian and therefore spread as troops where spread across the Empire.
- **Bishops:** Arianism became so widespread that even bishops began to agree with it.
- **Key:** If Arianism had "prevailed, the whole nature of the [Christian] religion would have been transformed. It would not only have been transformed, it would have failed, and with its failure would have followed the breakdown of that civilization which the Catholic Church was to build up." (94)



St. Therese Parish

Council of Nicaea

- Constantine, desiring peace, invited all bishops to the city of Nicaea to discuss Arius' heresy (94).
- This was the first time in the Church that all the bishops gathered together to meet and discuss matters of the Church. Council of Jerusalem was much smaller. The council met in AD 325.
- Pope Sylvester approved the council. 318 bishops were present. Constantine himself was there. Arius was there as well.

St. Therese Parish

First Four Ecumenical Councils: 325, 381, 431, 450



<http://andrewjacobs.org/rs92/councilmap.html>



St. Therese Parish

- **Key:** “The council looked like an army of martyrs.” Many of the bishops had suffered during the Great Persecution. Only 20 years earlier, the emperor had tried to eradicate the Church (94).
- Council Fathers condemned Arius’ teachings. They argued over specific Greek term *homoousios* (Latin: consubstantial – of the same substance).
- The Son is the same nature as the Father, but not the same person (95).



St. Therese Parish

- The Council of Nicaea clarified the relationship of the Son with the Father. *Homoousios* (Gk) or *Consubstantial* (Latin): of one essence or substance
- The second Person of the Trinity, who became man, is of one and the same substance, or essence, or nature as God the Father.
- **Nicene Creed:** I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.



St. Therese Parish

- **Key:** The creed formulated ended right before the section on the Holy Spirit.
- The section on the Holy Spirit was added by the Council of Constantinople in 381. *I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.*
- **Key:** The Nicene Creed we profess at Mass is nearly 1,700 years old!
- **Bishops voted:** 316 signed. Only 2 did not. Constantine exiled the 2 who did not sign.

St. Therese Parish

Rise of Monasticism

- "Red Martyrdom" was temporarily at an end with the legalization of the faith.
- Christians still desired to give their lives totally to Christ in a radical and unique manner.
- **Monasticism:** From the Greek meaning "solitary." Christian monks practiced "white martyrdom" (98).

St. Anthony the Abbot



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Anthony_Abbot_\(Pontormo\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Anthony_Abbot_(Pontormo))



St. Therese Parish

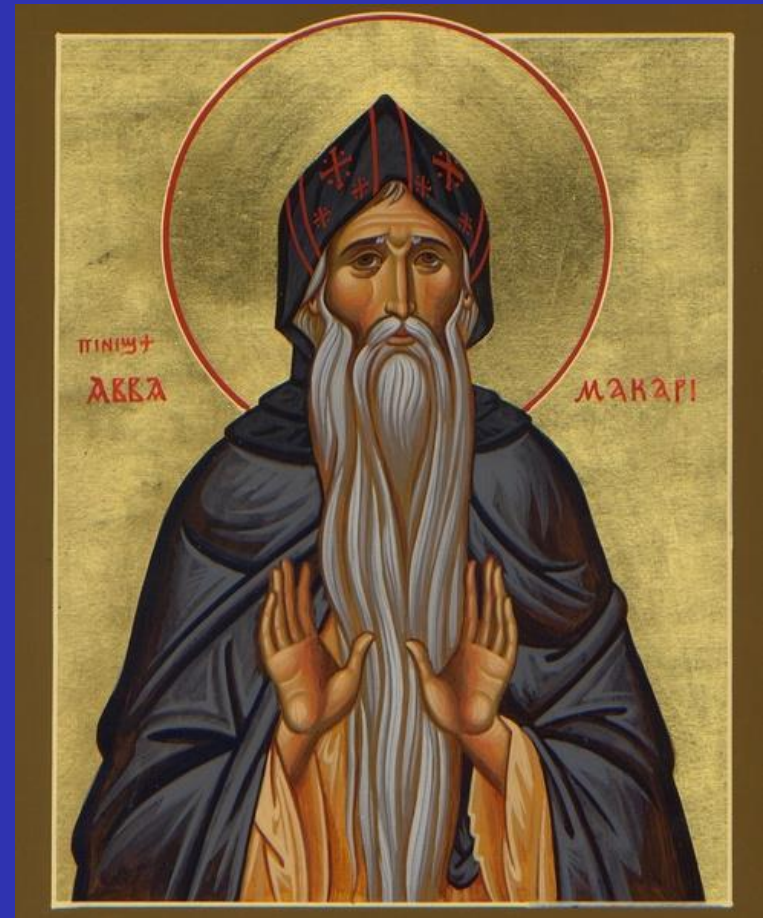
- **St. Anthony the Abbot:** Father of Monasticism (250-356). He lived in the desert in solitude. At age 19, he gave everything to the poor. He lived an ascetical life in Alexandria.
- He left Alexandria for the desert at age 35. He lived an ascetical life until age 106! Only left the desert two times: Encourage Christians during the Great Persecution and to support Athanasius (98).
- Holiness attracts! Others began to follow him.



St. Therese Parish

- St. Pachomius (318) established the first monastery with about 100 monks.
- Monks lived in a complex of buildings with no more than 40 monks in individual cells.
- Each monk wore a simple habit.
- Founded 9 other monasteries.

St. Pachomius





St. Therese Parish

Athanasius

- Deacon at the time of the Council of Nicaea.
- He was the bishop of Alexandria for 45 years.
- Gifted with an extraordinary intellect to tackle the Arian controversy.
- Exiled 5 times from his see for a total of 20 years.
- Spent exile in Gaul, Holy Land, and Rome.



St. Therese Parish

- Accused Athanasius of committing murder and concocted a bizarre plot around Bishop Arsenius, i.e., killing him and cutting off his right hand.
- **Council of Tyre** (335): Athanasius brought in Arsenius under a cloak, uncovered his head, and asked, “Is this the man I murdered?”
- Pointing to Arsenius, Athanasius said, “Let no one seek a third hand, for man has received two hands from the Creator and no more.” (103)
- **Key:** Athanasius alone maintained the orthodox faith among eastern bishops.



St. Therese Parish

- **Constantine:** Decided to receive baptism in sixties. He made a confession and was baptized by Arian sympathizer.
- **Christians:** Grew from 9 million (15%) in 312 to 30% at Constantine death in 337.
- **Note:** Constantine's siblings and nephews were killed, except for nephew Julian (105).



Arianism Continues

- **St. Gregory of Nyssa:** Wherever you went to the money changer, to the butcher's shop, or to the thermal baths, people asked you whether the Father is greater than the Son, or whether the Son proceeded from nothing! (107)
- **Crisis:** The Arian crisis plagued the Church for the next fifty years, spreading like a cancer such that Jerome famously said, "The whole world groaned, to its astonishment, it discovered that it was Arian...the little ship of the apostles was in peril." Arian struggle – three centuries (108).



St. Therese Parish

- Arius was in Constantinople and felt the urge to go to the bathroom. His servant heard shouting and screaming.
- The servant ran into the restroom and saw Arius dead on the ground, surrounded by his entrails (104).
- **Moral:** Don't be a heretic!



St. Therese Parish

Julian the Apostate Emperor

- **Julian:** Lost father and half-brother by Christian members of the imperial household. He grew fond of pagan authors and at age 20, and embraced paganism with enthusiasm (108).
- **Emperor:** Begins reign at age 30 (361-363) and singular focus of persecution the Church (18 months).
- **Baptism:** Tried to nullify his baptism by bathing in bull's blood. Grew a long beard in tradition of Greeks (109).
- **Temples:** Julian ordered the rebuilding of dismantled pagan temples and public sacrifices to the pagan deities.



St. Therese Parish

Julian the Apostate Emperor

- **Key:** Julian Attempted to persecute the Church with as three-pronged approach:
 1. Organized paganism like the Church with structure and mimic prayer books and engage in charitable works;
 2. Marginalized Catholics from Roman society (governors, law, schools) and stopped promoting soldiers;
 3. He tried to rebuild the Jewish Temple to nullify Christ's prophecy of Holy City; earthquake and fire prevented.
- **Battle:** Killed in battle saying, "You have won, O Galilean," as his final words (111).



St. Therese Parish

End of Paganism

- Less than 20 years after Julian's death, the paganism he endeavored to revive was stamped out (112).
- **Theodosius** (379-392): Became the first emperor to refuse the title Pontifex Maximus (supreme pontiff of greatest priest).
- **Edict of Thessalonica** (380): Declared the Catholic faith to be the sole religion of the Empire. It effectively outlawed paganism as a capital offense.
- **Key:** In 68 years, the Catholic religion had gone from persecuted minority to state-established religion! (113)



St. Therese Parish

Chapter 3: Conversions (Read pages 113 – 146)

- Church Fathers
- Council of Ephesus
- First Great Pope: Leo I (440-461)
- Collapse of the Roman Empire
- Conversion of Clovis (King of the Franks)

Goldy Studying

