


St. Therese Catholic Church


Church History
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January 11, 2022

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 **St. Therese Parish**

Epic: Timeline Bookmark (12 Periods – Color Coded)

WEAK LEADERS & SCHISM	PROTESTORS & DEFENDERS	THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION	REVOLUTIONS & MODERNISM	A WORLD AT WAR	THE NEW SPRINGTIME	THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE
Black: <i>Dark Time of the Church</i>	Oranges: <i>William of Orange</i>	Gold: <i>Holy Saints Reform the Church</i>	Grays: <i>Clouds of Industry & Intellectual Confusion</i>	Bright Red: <i>Color of Fascism and Communism</i>	Bright Green: <i>The Springtime of Renewal</i>	Marian Blue: <i>Pope John Paul II & Mary Our Lady of Hope</i>
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 Yellow: <i>Parable of the Kingdom of God [Mt. 4:30 – 32]</i>	Dark Red: <i>Blood of the Martyrs</i>	White: <i>Empire Clothed White in Christ</i>	Purple: <i>Royalty of the Holy Roman Emperor</i>	Navy Blue: <i>Color of France; Land of Crusaders</i>	
	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 (1139) Lateran III (1179) Lateran IV (1215) Lyons I (1245) Lyons II (1274)	

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

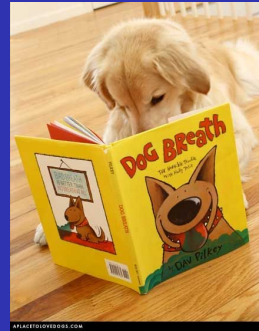
2

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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



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Church Fathers

- Heirs to the apostles, the leaders and teachers of the early Church. The Church Fathers extend from the first through the eighth centuries.
- Nearly 90 men are considered Church Fathers: hermits and monks, popes, apologists, preachers, philosophers, lawyers, scholars, theologians, and saints.
- Wrote Scripture commentaries, theological works, and attacks against heresies.

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Church Fathers

- Four basic criteria:
 - Orthodoxy
 - Holiness of life
 - Church approval
 - Antiquity



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Church Fathers

- St. Martin of Tours
- St. Ambrose
- St. John Chrysostom
- St. Jerome
- St. Augustine



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St. Ambrose



https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=16

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St. Ambrose

- From a prominent Roman family who had martyrs among ancestors.
- Embraced a secular career in politics. Studied grammar, rhetoric, and law, and even learned Greek.
- Age 29, appointed governor of the provinces of Liguria and Emilia with a regional seat at Milan. He was an efficient, fair, and conscientious governor.

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St. Ambrose

- Arian bishop of Milan dies in AD 373. The clergy and people gather to elect a new bishop.
- The orthodox who supported Nicaea and Arians squabbled who would become the next bishop.
- The squabble turned violent. Ambrose urged peace and unity. A small child cried out, "Ambrose for bishop!" and the people agreed (118).

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St. Ambrose

- Ambrose was stupefied as he was only a catechumen.
- He was baptized on Sunday, ordained a priest a few days later, and then consecrated bishop the following Sunday.
- He sold his worldly possessions and gave the money to the poor. He studied the Scriptures and theological works. He developed *lectio divina*, which is a prayerful reading of the Scripture (118).

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St. Ambrose

- *Caesaro-Papism*: The emperor is within the Church, not above the Church.
- Emperor Theodosius put to death thousands of people, including women and children, because of ill treatment to one of his officials.
- Ambrose was horrified and called the emperor to repent. The emperor came to the cathedral in simple clothing asking for forgiveness.

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St. Ambrose Relics



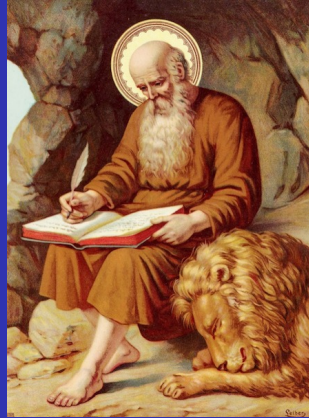
<https://angelusnews.com/voices/musing-on-the-teeth-of-st-ambrose/>

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St. Jerome

- Baptized in AD 360
- Began studying theology and moved to Antioch and lived an ascetical lifestyle in the desert
- Ordained to the priesthood
- Intellectually brilliant



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St. Jerome

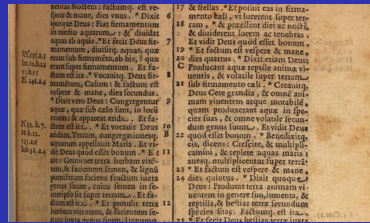


<https://www.infectedbyart.com/contestpiece.asp?piece=15243>

14

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- Pope Damasus I called Jerome to Rome as his papal secretary.
- Jerome learned Greek and Hebrew. The pope asked Jerome to translate Scripture into Latin (Vulgate).
- It is the standard text from the sixth century to the modern day.



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- Pope Damasus dies. Jerome's anger-management problem, and unapologetic manner of speaking and writing, were well-known (123).
- Jerome settled in Bethlehem, living in a monastery near a convent established by two female friends.



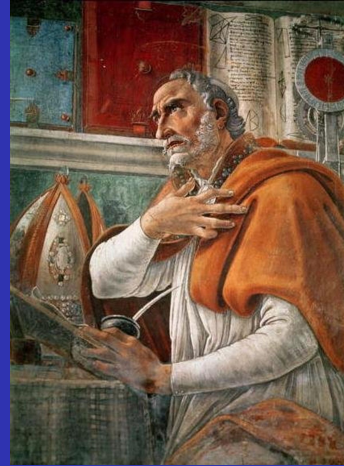
<https://memegenerator.net/instance/41950030/grumpy-cat-my-patron-saint-is-saint-jerome>

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- One of the most influential persons in Western civilization
- He not only influenced the Church, but all of Western thought.
- He lived an immoral life in his early years. Lived with a woman for 14 years and had a child Adeodatus.
- His mother, Monica, prayed for him constantly.

St. Augustine

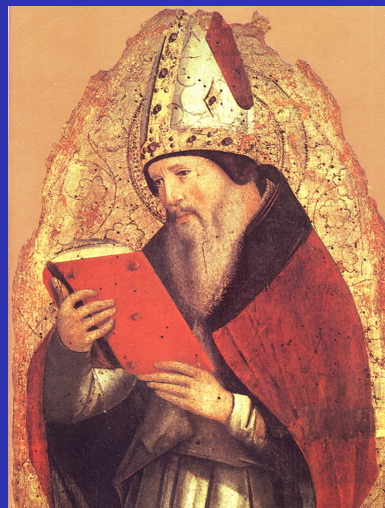


<https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/the-letters-of-st-augustine-2>

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- Augustine, along with his son, baptized by Ambrose on the Easter Vigil in 387.
- Ordained a priest in AD 391. Made a bishop four years later.
- Lived a simple monastic life where he administered his diocese of Hippo.
- “A convert will find many good Christians in the Church if he sets out to become one himself.”



<https://www.newcitypress.com/authors/saint-augustine.html>

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St. Augustine

- St. Augustine is the bridge between the old world (Roman world) and the new Catholic world.
- He was schooled in Roman and philosophical thought. He is the unmatched thinker for the next 800 years.
- One of his main works is his autobiography *Confessions* which is his dialogue with God. Most popular standard manual for Christian spirituality for the next thousand years (128).

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St. Augustine

- A second main work is *The City of God: Against the Pagans*. In the first part Augustine defends the Faith against the claim that the conversion of the Roman Empire led to its destruction.
- The second part is an explanation of the two cities – “the City of Man” founded on self-love, pride, ambition, greed, and other vices. And the “City of God” founded on love of God, selflessness, humility, sacrifice, and obedience.
- The two cities are distinct yet commingled in time, and each individual struggles as a citizen of both (128).

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St. Augustine

St. Augustine fought against many **heresies**:

- **Donatism**: Belief that the validity of a sacrament depended upon the worthiness of the minister. If true, the faithful would not have assurance in the validity of the sacraments.
- It is the worthiness of Christ that make the sacrament efficacious. God through His grace chooses to confer grace through a fallen man who is an instrument. The minister is unworthy, but God has chosen this man.

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St. Augustine

- **Pelagianism**: Pelagius denied the transmission of original sin. Adam's sin was a personal sin and was not communicated to the entire human race. Christ's mission was not salvific, but only provided a good example for moral living. Pelagius believed man has the capacity, through his own will, to live a life of perfection and attain heaven – God's grace is unnecessary.
- Pope Zosimus condemned Pelagianism in AD 418, which resulted in Augustine's famous phrase, "Rome has spoken, the case is closed." (131)

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St. Augustine

- St. Augustine is known as the “Doctor of Grace.”
- He devoted the last 35 years of his life to his flock in Hippo. He died as the Arian Vandals were besieging his beloved city.
- He died in AD 430 in the City of Hippo. One year after St. Augustine’s death the Council of Ephesus is called (431).

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Council of Ephesus (431)



<https://www.imago-images.com/st/0081998443>

24



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Council of Ephesus (431)

- Patriarch of Constantinople, Nestorius, exhibited a "semantic fussiness" and "arrogant intellectualism" that drove him from idiosyncrasy to explicit heresy (132).
- In his first Christmas as patriarch, Nestorius attacked the use of the word *Theotokos* to describe Mary as "the Mother of God." Mary is *Christotokos* (Christ-bearer).
- According to Nestorius, Mary is not the God-bearer. Mary gave birth to a human Jesus, but not a divine Jesus. In short, for Nestorius, there are two different persons of Jesus.

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Council of Ephesus (431)

- St. Cyril of Alexandria (412-444) vigorously combatted Nestorius' heresy. He wanted to prevent another destructive heresy like Arianism (133).
- St. Cyril writes to Pope Saint Celestine I who condemns the writings of Nestorius. A Council in Ephesus is called. St. Cyril is a papal legate.
- The council lasts one day. It was the shortest council in the history of the Church. Nestorius is condemned, deposed, and excommunicated. He retired to his former monastery in Antioch (133).

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Pope Leo I

- Pope Leo I (440 – 461) was pope for 21 years. During his pontificate, he:
 - Exerted papal supremacy throughout the Church
 - Enforced ecclesiastical discipline
 - Fought heresies
 - Protected Rome

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Pope Leo I

- Eutyches (378-454) taught that Jesus' human nature was absorbed by his divine nature "like a drop of water mingled in a cup of wine" (134).
- Eutyches was trying to avoid any notion of Jesus being two persons (Nestorianism). Unfortunately, he began teaching Jesus only had a divine nature (Monophysitism).

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Pope Leo I

- Jesus as true God and true man, has both a divine and human nature. With a human nature, Jesus has an intellect, will, and emotions.
- A council is called at Chalcedon in AD 451. More than 500 bishops were present. It was the most well attended council to date.

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Pope Leo I

- Leo taught that Jesus is one divine person, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, with two natures – divine and human.
- Jesus is truly God and truly man and must be acknowledged in two natures without confusion, without change, without division, without separation.
- After being read at the council, the assembled council fathers shouted with one voice, "Behold the Faith of the Fathers; the Faith of the Apostles!" (135).

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Pope Leo I

- The council added a canon on Constantinople saying it was *equal* to Rome.
- It implied that the patriarch of Constantinople was equal in authority with the pope. If accepted, it would altar the hierarchical structure of the Church established by Christ.
- Pope Leo rejected the canon, which continued the tension between east and west, Constantinople and Rome, that would linger for centuries.

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Pope Leo I

- Pope Leo defended the city of Rome from Attila the Hun in AD 452.
- Leo left the city with a small entourage and walked to the Huns' camp. After the visit, Attila's army broke camp and marched away. Leo saved Rome.
- Three years later the Vandals came. Leo convinced them to just take some loot and not destroy the city. They took the famous menorah from the Temple of Jerusalem that Titus had brought to Rome in the first century (137).

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Collapse of the Western Roman Empire

- Rome in the fifth century was a fatigued state, riven by political intrigue and controlled by an army whose core membership consisted of ethnically German warriors.
- Over time, central governing authority in Rome collapsed, and political power devolved to local German chieftains, the former commanders of Roman auxiliary troops (138).

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Collapse of the Western Roman Empire

- There are many causes for the collapse of the Empire in the west in the in the late fifth century, but the historical evidence does not support the popular myths that hordes of greedy, savage German barbarians invaded Roman territory and eventually conquered it in a bloody spasm of violence or that the Empire became enfeebled by embracing the Faith (138).

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Collapse of the Western Roman Empire

- After 500 years of rule, the Roman Empire started to buckle from exhaustion. Romans simply lost confidence in their society. It was this exhaustion and lack of confidence, not the Church or invading hordes of barbarians, that broke the Roman system.
- Civilization requires confidence in the society in which one lives, belief in its philosophy, belief in its laws, and confidence in one's own mental powers. Vigor, energy, vitality: all the great civilizations – or civilizing epochs – have a weight of energy behind them. So if one asks why the civilization of Greece or Rome collapsed, the real answer is that it was exhausted (139).

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Conversion of the Franks

- **St. Clotilda** (474 – 545) is one of the most important saints in Church history.
- Clotilda was a Catholic and strong in the Catholic faith. She married Clovis in the fifth century. She prayed constantly for his conversion.
- Clovis did not pay much attention to Clotilda's reasoning. She continued to argue with reason and most importantly, pray for her husband (144).

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Conversion of the Franks

- Clotilda lost her son shortly after he was baptized. She remained confident that he was called to heaven with his baptismal robes and would be nurtured in the sight of God.
- Clovis was engaged in battle and invoked Clotilda's God and the battle swung in his favor. Clotilda told the bishop and he prepared Clovis for baptism. Clovis was concerned what his troops would think. He was overjoyed that his troops accepted conversion.

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Clovis I: King of the the Franks

- Ruled much of Gaul from 481-511.
- Roman Empire transformed into Europe.
- Founder of the Merovingian dynasty (200 years).
- Catholic Christianity spread throughout Western Europe to combat Arian Germanic tribes.



<http://darkagehistory.blogspot.com/2015/06/clovis-towards-new-chronology-part-three.html>

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Conversion of the Franks

- On Christmas Day 496, the prayers of St. Clotilda, Bishop Remigius, and Geneviève were answered.
- Clovis was baptized in Reims, along with 3,000 Frankish Warriors.
- The holy oil used to anoint Clovis was used to anoint the kings of France for the next 1,300 years (145).

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Conversion of the Franks

- The saintly wife of Clovis outlived him for 34 years. She spent decades financing the construction of churches and monasteries and living a penitential life of prayer, first in Paris and then at the Shrine of Saint Martin of Tours. She changed the course of Church history.
- Clovis was the only Catholic king in the west, and his conversion legitimized the Faith in the eyes of his people, who had previously viewed it as the religion of the weak and conquered Gallo-Romans. The Franks would dominate the Continent for centuries, which contributed to the eventual conversion of the Arian Germanic tribes (146).

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Bright Lights in a Dark Time

- With the collapse of the Roman Empire in the West, the Church fills the vacuum left by the void of the central governing authority.
- It will become the main administrator in holding the European fabric together. While society is fractured, the Church will hold the fabric of Western European society.



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Contributions of Christianity

- Brought a radical equality of all in Christ in an empire with a highly stratified population (e.g., nobility, commoners, slaves).
- Desacralized the state: Caesar is not God and therefore not omnipotent, and his power is limited. He is not above God and His laws, but rather must establish laws/policies accordingly.
- By desacralizing the state (limiting the state's power), Christianity opens the space for democracy.

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Contributions of Christianity

- Christianity redefined “heroism” and the capacity for heroic virtue. Typically, a hero was a aristocratic from a leading family: successful in material terms. Christian martyrs changed this. Martyrs were from every class, including the slave class. Heroism was not a function of class or sex.
- St. Augustine’s *City of God* strengthened our understanding that it is possible to be oriented to a transcendent world and be responsible to transcendent truths while engaged in this world.

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Contributions of Christianity

- The ancient world focused on physical perfection as modeled in athletes (glory). Christian monks offered a new kind of grace and glory: the conquest of the will, and in an “arena” in which the individual heard the voice of God, not the cheers of crowds.
- Christianity another layer of human dignity, i.e., our capacity for interiority, for the contemplative, for the encounter with ultimate truths and ultimate reality *inside* the person.
- **Source:** Weigel, George. *The Difference Christianity Made*. National Review. December 16, 2021.

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- Read chapter 4 – pages 147 - 171
- "Dark Ages"
- Saints Patrick, Benedict, Gregory the Great, and Boniface
- Rise of Islam
- Battle of Poitiers (AD 732)

