

# Introduction to Orthodoxy

Fall 2016: A Basic Catechesis  
in Orthodox Christianity

Part 8: Councils, their  
Canons, & Saints Alive  
in Holy Tradition



# *Holy Tradition: Life of Spirit in the Church*



# *Sources of Holy Tradition:*

1. **Scripture** (the Bible)
2. **Liturgy** (The corporate Prayers of the People of God)
3. **Councils** (including both the creeds and the canons of the councils)
4. **Saints** (both their teachings and the various “Lives” that describe their journeys)
5. **Church Art** (including icons, vestments, church architecture, and church music)



# *The Scriptures: Alive in Tradition*



# *The Liturgy: Alive in Tradition*



# The Councils & Their Canons



# *The Saints: their Lives & Writings*



# Church Art: Alive in Tradition



*Tonight:*

*Councils, Canons  
and Saints:  
Alive in the Tradition*



*But aren't Councils Boring?*





# *Principle of Synodality/Conciliarity*



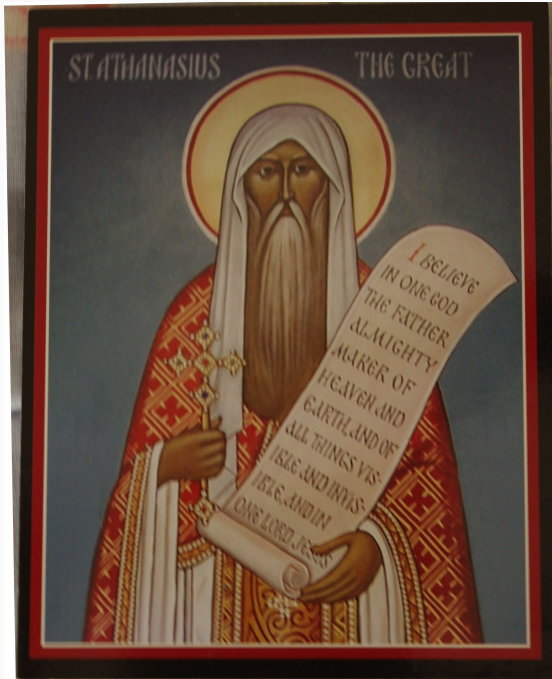
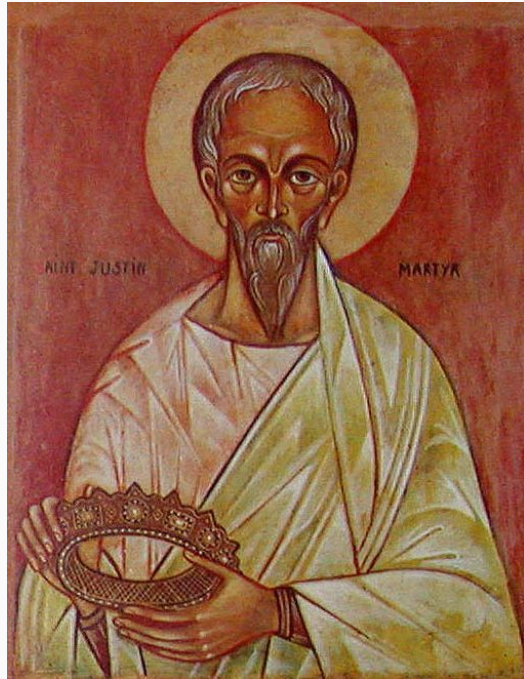
# *The 7 Ecumenical Councils*

- 325 I Nicea: Divinity of Christ (St. Nicholas, St. Athanasius--Arius repudiated)
- 381 I Constantinople: Divinity of the Holy Spirit (St. Gregory the Theologian)
- 431 Ephesus: Mary is Theotokos (St. Cyril--Nestorius repudiated)
- 451 Chalcedon: Two Natures of Christ (Eutychian Monophysitism repudiated)
- 553 II Constantinople: Nestorianism Again Condemned (Emperor Justinian)
- 681 III Constantinople: Two Wills and Energies Affirmed
- 787 II Nicea: Veneration of Icons Affirmed (St. Tarasios, St. John of Damascus)

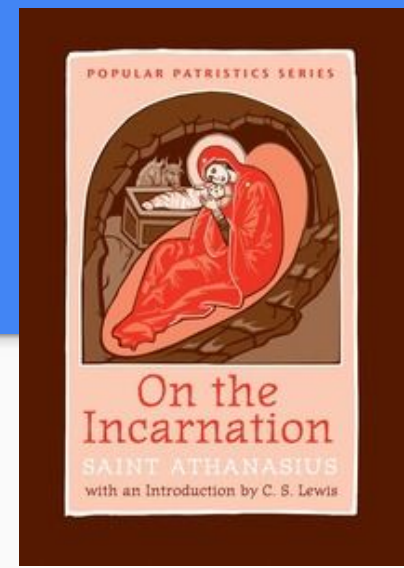
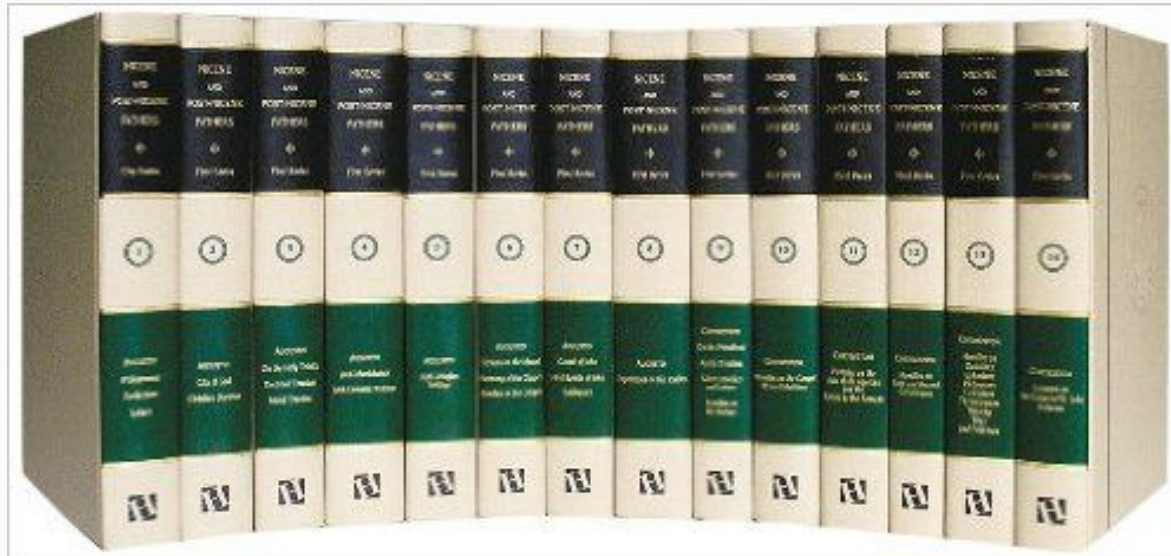
# *The Saints: their Lives & Writings*



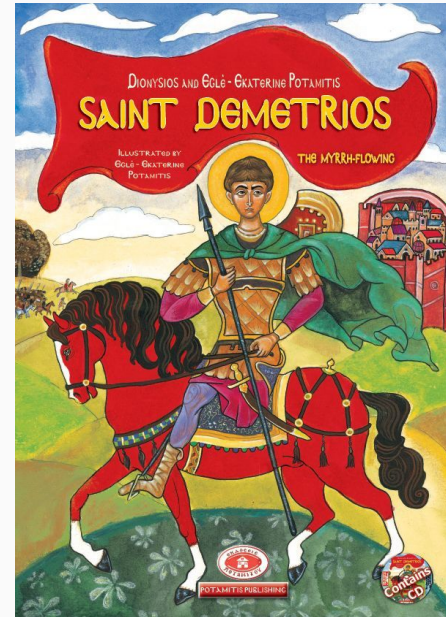
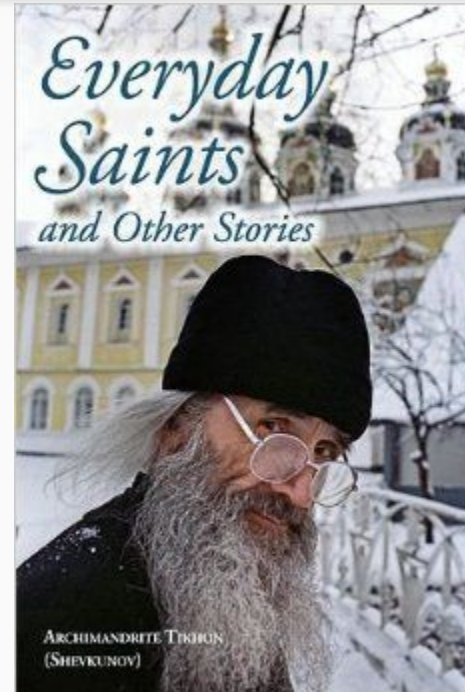
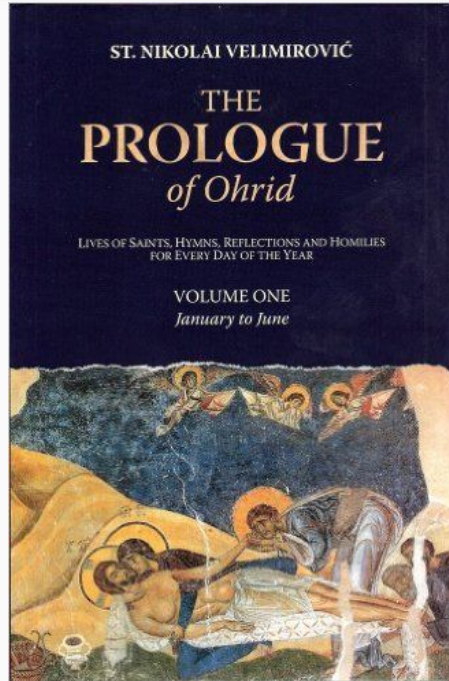
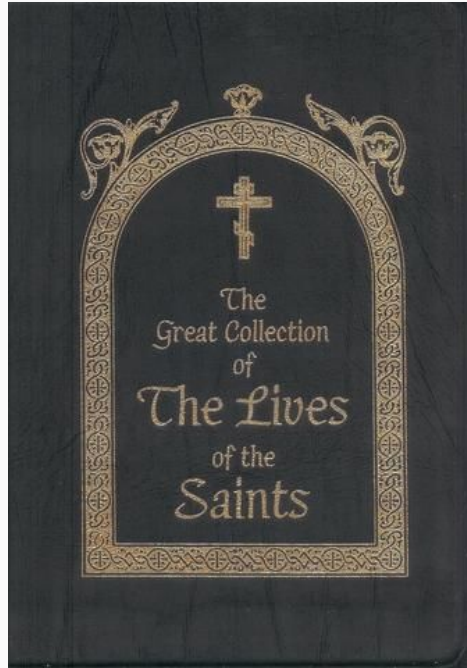
# The Holy Fathers: Who are they?



*Actually reading the fathers  
---what a thought!*



# How do we absorb the witness of the saints?



# *The 9 ranks of saints in the Proskomedija*

- The Theotokos**
- The Forerunner & Baptist John**
- The Holy Prophets of the Old  
Covenant**
- The Holy Apostles**
- The Holy Bishops**
- The Holy Martyrs**
- The Holy Venerable Monks and Nuns**
- The Unmercenaries & Healing Saints**
- The Local Saints Particular to a  
community, place, or nation**



## Conclusion



St. Justin Popovich

## Next Week...



“Icons Alive in Tradition”