

# **The Patriarchate of Antioch:**

**Founded by Saints Peter and Paul**

## **The Patriarchate of Antioch: Founded by Saints Peter and Paul**

The most famous scriptural reference concerning Antioch relates that it was in this city that the followers of Christ were first mockingly referred to as "Christians" (Acts 11:26). In the Book of Acts, which offers an account of the first years of the Church, we discover that Antioch is the second most frequently mentioned city. Nicholas, one of the original seven deacons was a convert from Antioch and perhaps the first Christian from that city (Acts 6:5). During the persecution which occasioned the death of Saint Stephen the First Martyr, members of the fledgling Christian community in Jerusalem fled to Antioch for refuge.

Church tradition maintains that the See of Antioch was founded by Saint Peter the Apostle in 34 AD. Peter was either followed or joined by the Apostles Paul and Barnabas who preached there to both Gentiles and to Jews, who seem to have been numerous in the city. It was in Antioch that one of the first conflicts within the Church developed between Peter and Paul. This conflict regarded the necessity of circumcision for male Gentile converts to Christianity. It was the resolution of this conflict at the Council of Jerusalem under Saint James the Apostle that determined the direction of the Antiochian mission to the Gentiles, and the dynamic nature of that Christian community in its missionary outreach. It was from Antioch that Paul and Barnabas departed for their great missionary journeys to the Gentile lands (Acts 13:1).

The Apostles directed a truly universal ministry. After spending some seven years in Antioch, Peter left for Rome. To succeed him as bishop of Antioch he appointed Euodius, who is thus counted in early episcopal lists as the first successor to the Antiochian Throne of Peter. The multiple Apostolic foundation of the See of Antioch, the early missions centered there and the active nature of the community, as recorded in the New Testament, have been a unique heritage to all who trace their spiritual and ecclesiastical roots to the Antiochian Patriarchate.

The See of Antioch continued its glorious contributions to the universal Church by the numerous outstanding personalities it nurtured. Saint Ignatius of Antioch for example, is revered as both a victorious martyr during the reign of Emperor Trajan (early second century) and as a reliable historical source for the structure of Church life. Ignatius was the second successor to Peter and may actually have been consecrated by that Apostle or Saint Paul.

The Church of Antioch has maintained a continuous succession in the Apostolic Faith down to the present. The current Bishop/Patriarch of Antioch is His Beatitude John X, elected on December 17th, 2012.

## **Primates of the Apostolic See of Antioch**

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### **(Orthodox Succession)**

1. 45-53 The Episcopacy of St. Peter, the Apostle, in Antioch.
2. 53 The Episcopacy of Eudoius in Antioch.
3. 68 The Episcopacy of St. Ignatius (d. 107) in Antioch.
4. 100 The Episcopacy of Heros in Antioch.
5. 127 The Episcopacy of Cornelius in Antioch.
6. 151 The Episcopacy of Heros II in Antioch.
7. 169 The Episcopacy of Theophilus (d. 181/182) in Antioch.
8. 188 The Episcopacy of Maximianus (d. 190/191) in Antioch.
9. 191-212 The Episcopacy of Serapion in Antioch.
10. 212-218 The Episcopacy of Aslipiades in Antioch.
11. 218-231 The Episcopacy of Philetus in Antioch.
12. 232 The Episcopacy of Zebinus (a.k.a. Zenobius) in Antioch.
13. 240 The Episcopacy of St. Babylas in Antioch.
14. 253 The Episcopacy of Fabius in Antioch.
15. 256 The Episcopacy of Demetrian in Antioch.
16. 263 The Episcopacy of Amphilochius in Antioch.
17. 267 The Episcopacy of Paul of Samosata in Antioch.
18. 270 The Episcopacy of Dmonus in Antioch.
19. 273 The Episcopacy of Timaeus in Antioch.
20. 277 The Episcopacy of Cyril in Antioch.
21. 299 The Episcopacy of Tyrannion in Antioch.
22. 308 The Episcopacy of Vitalius in Antioch.
23. 314 The Episcopacy of Philogonius in Antioch.
24. 324 The Episcopacy of Paulinus in Antioch.
25. 325 The Episcopacy of Eustathius in Antioch.
26. 332 The Episcopacy of Paulinus in Antioch.
27. 332 The Episcopacy of Eulalius (5 months) in Antioch.
28. 333 The Episcopacy of Euphronius in Antioch.

29. 334 The Episcopacy of Placentius in Antioch.
30. 341 The Episcopacy of Stephanus in Antioch.
31. 345 The Episcopacy of Leontius in Antioch.
32. 350 The Episcopacy of Eudoxius in Antioch.
33. 354 The Episcopacy of Meletius in Antioch.
34. 354 The Episcopacy of Eudoxius in Antioch.
35. 357 The Episcopacy of Annias (a.k.a. Ammianus) in Antioch.
36. 360 The Episcopacy of Eudozius in Antioch.
37. 370 The Episcopacy of Dorotheus in Antioch.
38. 371 The Episcopacy of Paulinus in Antioch.
39. 376 The Episcopacy of Vitalius in Antioch.
40. 384 The Episcopacy of Flavian in Antioch.
41. 404 The Episcopacy of Porphyrius in Antioch.
42. 408 The Episcopacy of Alexander in Antioch.
43. 418 The Episcopacy of Theodotus in Antioch.
44. 427 The Episcopacy of John in Antioch.
45. 443 The Episcopacy of Domnus II in Antioch.
46. 450 The Episcopacy of Maximus in Antioch.

See elevated to dignity of a Patriarchate by the Council of Chalcedon in 451

47. 459 The Patriarchate of Basil in Antioch.
48. 459 The Patriarchate of Acacius in Antioch.
49. 461 The Patriarchate of Martyrius in Antioch.
50. 465 The Patriarchate of Peter the Fuller in Antioch.
51. 466 The Patriarchate of Julian in Antioch.
52. 474 The Patriarchate of Peter the Fuller in Antioch.
53. 475 The Patriarchate of John II in Antioch.
54. 490 The Patriarchate of Stephen II in Antioch.
55. 493 The Patriarchate of Stephen III in Antioch.
56. 495 The Patriarchate of Callandion in Antioch.
57. 495 The Patriarchate of John Codonatus in Antioch.
58. 497 The Patriarchate of Palladius in Antioch.

59. 505 The Patriarchate of Flavian II in Antioch.
60. 513 The Patriarchate of Severus in Antioch.
61. 518 The Patriarchate of Paul II in Antioch.
62. 521 The Patriarchate of Euphrasius in Antioch.
63. 526 The Patriarchate of Ephraim in Antioch.
64. 546 The Patriarchate of Domnus III in Antioch.
65. 561 The Patriarchate of Anastasius the Sinaite in Antioch.
66. 571 The Patriarchate of Gregory in Antioch.
67. 594 The Patriarchate of Anastasius the Sinaite in Antioch.
68. 599 The Patriarchate of Anastasius II in Antioch.
69. 610 The Patriarchate of Gregory II, in Antioch.
70. 620 The Patriarchate of Anastasius III in Antioch.
71. 628 The Patriarchate of Macedonius in Antioch.
72. 640 The Patriarchate of George in Antioch.
73. 656 The Patriarchate of Macarius in Antioch.
74. 681 The Patriarchate of Theophanes in Antioch.
75. 687 The Patriarchate of Sebastian in Antioch.
76. 690 The Patriarchate of George II in Antioch.
77. 695 The Patriarchate of Alexander in Antioch.
78. 742 The Patriarchate of Stephen IV in Antioch.
79. 748 The Patriarchate of Theophylact in Antioch.
80. 767 The Patriarchate of Theodore in Antioch.
81. 797 The Patriarchate of John IV in Antioch.
82. 810 The Patriarchate of Job in Antioch.
83. 826 The Patriarchate of Nicholas in Antioch.
84. 834 The Patriarchate of Simeon in Antioch.
85. 840 The Patriarchate of Elias in Antioch.
86. 852 The Patriarchate of Theodosius in Antioch.
87. 860 The Patriarchate of Nicholas II in Antioch.
88. 879 The Patriarchate of Michael in Antioch.
89. 890 The Patriarchate of Zacharias in Antioch.

90. 902 The Patriarchate of George III in Antioch.
91. 917 The Patriarchate of Job II in Antioch.
92. 939 The Patriarchate of Eustratius in Antioch.
93. 960 The Patriarchate of Christopher in Antioch.
94. 966 The Patriarchate of Theodorus II in Antioch.
95. 977 The Patriarchate of Agapius in Antioch.
96. 995 The Patriarchate of John IV in Antioch.
97. 1000 The Patriarchate of Nicholas III in Antioch.
98. 1003 The Patriarchate of Elias II in Antioch.
99. 1010 The Patriarchate of George Lascaris in Antioch.
100. 1015 The Patriarchate of Macarius the Virtuous in Antioch.
101. 1023 The Patriarchate of Eleutherius in Antioch.
102. 1028 The Patriarchate of Peter III in Antioch.
103. 1051 The Patriarchate of John VI in Antioch.
104. 1062 The Patriarchate of Aemilian in Antioch.
105. 1075 The Patriarchate of Theodosius II in Antioch.
106. 1084 The Patriarchate of Nicephorus in Antioch.
107. 1090 The Patriarchate of John VII in Antioch.
108. 1155 The Patriarchate of John IX in Antioch.
109. 1159 The Patriarchate of Euthymius in Antioch.
110. 1164 The Patriarchate of Macarius in Antioch.
111. 1166 The Patriarchate of Athanasius in Antioch.
112. 1180 The Patriarchate of Theodosius III in Antioch.
113. 1182 The Patriarchate of Elias III in Antioch.
114. 1184 The Patriarchate of Christopher II in Antioch.
115. 1185 The Patriarchate of Theodore IV (Balsamon) in exile in Constantinople.
116. 1199 The Patriarchate of Joachim in exile in Constantinople.
117. 1219 The Patriarchate of Dorotheus in exile in Constantinople.
118. 1245 The Patriarchate of Simeon II in exile in Constantinople.
119. 1268 The Patriarchate of Euthymius II in exile in Constantinople.
120. 1269 The Patriarchate of Theodosius IV in Antioch.

121. 1276 The Patriarchate of Theodosius V in Antioch.
122. 1285 The Patriarchate of Arsenius in Antioch.
123. 1293 The Patriarchate of Dionysius in Antioch.
124. 1308 The Patriarchate of Mark in Antioch.

**Patriarchal See transferred to Damascus in 1342**

125. 1342 The Patriarchate of Ignatius II in Damascus.
127. 1386 The Patriarchate of Pachomius in Damascus.
128. 1393 The Patriarchate of Nilus in Damascus.
129. 1401 The Patriarchate of Michael III in Damascus.
130. 1410 The Patriarchate of Pachomius II in Damascus.
131. 1411 The Patriarchate of Joachim II in Damascus.
132. 1426 The Patriarchate of Mark III in Damascus.
133. 1436 The Patriarchate of Dorotheus II in Damascus.
134. 1454 The Patriarchate of Michael IV in Damascus.
135. 1476 The Patriarchate of Mark IV in Damascus.
136. 1476 The Patriarchate of Joachim III in Damascus.
137. 1483 The Patriarchate of Gregory III in Damascus.
139. 1497-1523 The Patriarchate of Dorotheus III in Damascus.
140. 1523-1541 The Patriarchate of Michael V in Damascus.
141. 1541-1543 The Patriarchate of Dorotheus IV in Damascus.
142. 1543-1576 The Patriarchate of Joachim IV (Ibn Juma) in Damascus.
143. 1577-1581 The Patriarchate of Michael VI (Sabbagh) in Damascus.
144. 1581-1592 The Patriarchate of Joachim V in Damascus.
145. 1593-1604 The Patriarchate of Joachim VI in Damascus.
146. 1604-1611 The Patriarchate of Dorotheus V in Damascus.
147. 1611-1619 The Patriarchate of Athanasius III (Dabbas) in Damascus.
148. 1619-1631 The Patriarchate of Ignatius III (Attiyah) in Damascus.
149. 1635-1636 The Patriarchate of Euthymius III in Damascus.
150. 1636-1648 The Patriarchate of Euthymius IV in Damascus.
151. 1648-1672 The Patriarchate of Michael III (Zaim) in Damascus.
152. 1674-1684 The Patriarchate of Neophytos I in Damascus.

153. 1686-1694 The Patriarchate of Athanasius IV (Dabbas) in Damascus.
154. 1694-1720 The Patriarchate of Cyril III (Zaim) in Damascus.
155. 1720-1724 The Patriarchate of Athanasius IV (Dabbas) in Damascus.

Separation of the group pledging loyalty to the Pope of Rome. Today, this group carries the name Melkite". However, the term "Melkite" historically applied to the Orthodox Christians of Antioch who remain faithful to the Orthodox Church to the present day.

#### **The Greek Patriarchs**

156. 1724-1766 The Patriarchate of Sylvester I in Damascus.
157. 1766-1767 The Patriarchate of Philemon I in Damascus.
158. 1767-1791 The Patriarchate of Daniel I in Damascus.
159. 1792-1813 The Patriarchate of Euthymius I in Damascus.
160. 1813-1823 The Patriarchate of Seraphim I in Damascus.
161. 1843-1859 The Patriarchate of Methodius I in Damascus.
162. 1850-1885 The Patriarchate of Hierotheos I in Damascus.
163. 1885-1891 The Patriarchate of Gerasimos I in Damascus.
164. 1892-1898 The Patriarchate of Spyridon I in Damascus.

#### **Restoration of the Arab Patriarchs**

165. 1899-1906 The Patriarchate of Meletius II (Doumani) in Damascus.
166. 1906-1928 The Patriarchate of Gregory IV (Haddad) in Damascus.
167. 1928-1958 The Patriarchate of Alexander III (Tahan) in Damascus.
168. 1958-1970 The Patriarchate of Theodosius VI (Abourjaily) in Damascus.
169. 1970-1979 The Patriarchate of Elias IV (Muawad) in Damascus.
170. 1979-2012 The Patriarchate of Ignatius IV (Hazim) in Damascus.
171. 2012- The Patriarchate of John X (Yaziji) in Damascus.