

## Growth & Development of Christianity

Historical Overview

### WORSHIP & OVERSIGHT

- Worship in the Church
- Papacy & Priesthood: Clergy oversight
- Politics & Religion: Emperors & Popes

### DOCTRINE & DEVOTION

- Councils & Creeds: Clarification of Doctrine
- Monasteries & Orders: Alternative Devotion
- Sacraments & Saints: Liturgy & Veneration

## Christian Worship

Growth & Development of Christianity

## Christian Worship

Phase 1. Early Christian Worship

## Early Christian Worship

First Century

- Christian worship in the first century was informal, communal, and rooted in Jewish traditions. Since many of the first Christians were Jewish, they initially worshiped in synagogues and incorporated elements of Jewish liturgy, such as prayers, readings from the Old Testament scriptures and singing of Psalms.

*... but they [Paul and his companions] went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the **Sabbath** day they went into the **synagogue** and sat down. After the **reading from the Law and the Prophets**, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." (Acts 13:14-15 ESV)*



## Early Christian Worship

First Century

- However, they also celebrated the Lord's Supper in private homes, reflecting the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples. These gatherings focused on teaching, prayer, communal meals, and the sharing of spiritual gifts, led by apostles or elders.

*And they devoted themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and the **prayers**. ... And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread **in their homes**, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, (Acts 2:42, 46 ESV)*

## Early Christian Worship

First Century

- Worship was simple, centered on Christ's resurrection, with a strong emphasis on fellowship, charity, and equality within the community. There were no dedicated church buildings at this time, and Christians were often persecuted.

*And all who believed **were together** and had all things **in common**. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (Acts 2:44-45 ESV)*

*But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ... Yet if anyone **suffers as a Christian**, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. (1 Peter 4:13, 16 ESV)*

## Christian Worship

Phase 2. Persecution and Secret Worship

## Persecution and Secret Worship

Second and Third Centuries

- With the passing of the apostles, the early bishops assumed oversight functions. From the year 150, Christian teachers began to produce theological and apologetic works aimed at defending the faith.
- These authors are known as the **Church Fathers**, and the study of them is called **patristics**. Notable early Fathers include Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria and Origen.



## Persecution and Secret Worship

Second and Third Centuries

- As Christianity spread across the Roman Empire, Christians faced increasing persecution, particularly during the reigns of emperors like Nero and Diocletian.
- During these periods, Christian worship became more secretive, often taking place in homes, catacombs, or other secluded locations.
- Worship services still centered on the Lord's Supper and the reading of Scriptures.
- Baptism (often conducted in secret) became more formalized as a key rite of initiation, with new converts undergoing a period of preparation before being baptized, usually at Easter.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Persecution and Secret Worship

Second and Third Centuries

- The first Christian art was in catacombs. Few walls were painted, but the existing paintings are important because they tell us what themes were important to early Christians. Not surprisingly, many of them were associated with deliverance themes.

<https://www.bluffton.edu/courses/humanities/art/ech/catacomb/>



Three Men in the Fiery Furnace

3rd Century wall painting • Priscilla Catacomb, Rome

Image source: <https://walkwithjesus.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/1three-men-in-the-fiery-furnace-priscilla-catacomb.jpg>



Jesus raising Lazarus  
Catacomb of Callixtus, Rome, Italy

Image source: <https://bibleoasis.com/lazarus-resurrection-vital-to-early-christians/>



# Christian Worship

## Phase 3. Liturgical Worship

# Liturgical Worship

Third and Fourth Centuries

- As Christianity grew, so did its liturgical structure. By the 3rd century, distinct orders of clergy emerged, such as bishops, priests, and deacons, who oversaw the administration of sacraments and led worship.
- Worship services began to include formal prayers, set readings from Scripture, sermons, and the more ritualized celebration of the Eucharist.
- These developments were part of the Church's growing effort to preserve unity and orthodoxy amid theological disputes and heresies.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

# Liturgical Worship

Third and Fourth Centuries

- Church structure became more hierarchical, with bishops overseeing multiple congregations and acting as guardians of correct doctrine and practice.
- Sunday became the primary day of worship, chosen in commemoration of Jesus' resurrection.

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# Christian Worship

## Phase 4. The Constantinian Shift



## The Constantinian Shift

Fourth Century

- A major turning point occurred in AD 313 with the Edict of Milan, when Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity, bringing an end to persecution. This ushered in a new era for Christian worship, transforming it from a private, persecuted practice to a public and official religion.
- Constantine himself became involved in Church affairs, and with the Council of Nicaea (AD 325), the Church developed creeds and formal doctrines, like the Nicene Creed, which were recited during worship services.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## The Constantinian Shift

Fourth Century

- Christian worship became more elaborate, reflecting its new status in the empire. Church buildings were constructed, often with imperial patronage, and these basilicas became centers for public worship.
- The Eucharist, which was previously celebrated in homes or small gatherings, was now held in these grand spaces. Worship services became more ceremonial, with incense, processions, and vestments for clergy, reflecting both imperial and religious grandeur.
- The architecture of these churches emphasized the sacred, with altars, relics, and sacred art becoming central to worship.

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## Christian Worship

Phase 5. Holy Roman Empire

## Worship in the Holy Roman Empire

Fourth and Fifth Centuries

- By the late 4th and 5th centuries, the practice of Christian worship had become even more formalized. The liturgy—a set order of worship including prayers, hymns, and readings—became standardized across the empire.
- The role of the bishop grew in prominence, particularly in major cities like Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch. The celebration of key Christian feasts such as Easter and Christmas (formally established in this period) became central events in the Christian calendar, drawing large numbers of people to worship.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>



## Worship in the Holy Roman Empire

Fourth and Fifth Centuries

- The imperial endorsement of Christianity also led to the incorporation of Roman symbols and traditions into Christian worship. For example, the Latin language became the official liturgical language in the Western Church, while Greek remained dominant in the East.
- In 525 Dionysius Exiguus, a Scythian monk, created the AD system, counting years since the birth of Jesus Christ.
- The architecture of Christian churches, with their basilica-style layouts, often mirrored Roman public buildings.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/> • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anno\\_Dominii#Notes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anno_Dominii#Notes)

## Worship in the Holy Roman Empire

Fourth and Fifth Centuries

- During the same period, monasticism began to emerge as an alternative form of Christian devotion. Inspired by the ascetic lives of early desert fathers like Saint Anthony, Christians who sought a more radical commitment to prayer and simplicity withdrew from public life to live in monasteries.
- Monastic communities developed their own forms of worship, centered around the Divine Office, a daily cycle of prayers and psalms, and the Eucharist.
- One of the outgrowths of the monastic movement was the development of Catholic religious orders.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Christian Worship

Phase 6: The Fall of Rome

## Worship at the Fall of Rome

AD 476

- By the fall of the Western Roman Empire in AD 476, Christian worship had moved from simple, home-based gatherings to large, organized liturgical services held in basilicas.
- The Roman Church had developed a complex hierarchy, formalized sacraments, and a standardized liturgy that emphasized the Eucharist as the central act of worship.
- The growing influence of monasticism also shaped Christian worship, with monks preserving and spreading Christian texts and traditions through their disciplined, prayer-focused lives.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>



## Worship at the Fall of Rome

AD 476

- Christianity, having shifted from a marginalized, persecuted faith to the dominant religion of the Roman Empire, now defined public and spiritual life across the empire.
- Worship became a central feature of both daily life and the larger religious calendar, which structured the rhythm of Christian life well into the medieval period.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Clergy Oversight: Popes & Priests

Growth & Development of Christianity

## Church Elders

Oversight in the Early Church

## Appointing Elders

Oversight in the Early Church

- One of the characteristics of Paul's ministry was to appoint leaders in the churches:

*And when they had **appointed elders** (πρεσβύτερος | G4245 | elder) for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. (Acts 14:23 ESV)*

*This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and **appoint elders** in every town as I directed you-- (Titus 1:5 ESV)*



## Appointing Elders

Oversight in the Early Church

- Apparently at that time there were two key positions, elder and deacon:

*The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of **overseer** (ἐπίσκοπός | G1984 | overseer, bishop), he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,... (1 Timothy 3:1-2 ESV)*

***Deacons** (διακόνους | G1249 | minister, deacon) likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. (1 Timothy 3:8 ESV)*

## Appointing Elders

Oversight in the Early Church

- Different Greek words were used for these positions:

πρεσβύτερος	presbýteros	Presbyterian	Elder
ἐπίσκοπή	episkopé	Episcopal	Overseer, Bishop
διακόνους	diákonos	Deacon	Servant, Minister

- Both in the New Testament and Early Church Fathers, the terms “elder” (*presbýteros*) and “overseer” (*episkopé*) were used interchangeably and applied to the same position.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop#References>

## Role of Elders

Oversight in the Early Church

Elders had specific responsibilities to the Lord for his flock:

- General oversight

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all **the flock**, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. (Acts 20:28 ESV)*

- Keeping order

*This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might **put what remained into order**, and **appoint elders** in every town as I directed you-- (Titus 1:5 ESV)*

## Role of Elders

Oversight in the Early Church

- Pastoral care

*So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: **shepherd** the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight... being **examples** to the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-2 ESV)*

*Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them **pray over** him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14 ESV)*



## Role of Elders

Oversight in the Early Church

- Maintain sound doctrine

*As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any **different doctrine**, (1 Timothy 1:3 ESV)*

*He [an overseer] must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to **give instruction in sound doctrine** and also to **rebuke those who contradict it**. (Titus 1:9 ESV)*

## Church Elders

Oversight in the Early Church

It appears that in different locations there were key leaders:

- James in Jerusalem:

*When we had come to **Jerusalem**, the brothers received us gladly. On the following day Paul went in with us to **James**, and all the elders were present. (Acts 21:17-18 ESV)*

- Timothy in Ephesus:

*As I urged you [**Timothy**] when I was going to Macedonia, remain at **Ephesus** so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, (1 Timothy 1:3 ESV)*

## Church Elders

Oversight in the Early Church

- Titus in Crete:

*This is why I left you [**Titus**] in **Crete**, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— (Titus 1:5 ESV)*

This designation is seen by some as the beginning a “bishop” in charge of a specific congregation.

## Apostolic Fathers

Successors to the Apostles



## Apostolic Fathers

Successors to the Apostles

- The **Apostolic Fathers** were Christian theologians who lived in the 1st and 2nd centuries CE, and are believed to have personally known some of the Twelve Apostles, or to have been significantly influenced by them.
- For example... **Clement of Rome**, considered as the third successor of Peter in the Papacy, "had seen the blessed Apostles [Peter and Paul] and had been conversant with them" (*Irenaeus, Adv. Haer., III, iii, 3*).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostolic\\_Fathers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostolic_Fathers)

## Apostolic Fathers

Successors to the Apostles

- **Ignatius of Antioch** is considered the second successor of Peter in Antioch (*Eusebius, Church History III.36*) and during his life he may have met with other apostles. That Ignatius is a disciple of John is an accepted tradition, substantiated by the similarity of his thought with Johannine writings.
- **Polycarp of Smyrna** was "instructed by apostles" (*Irenaeus, op. cit., III, iii, 4*) and had been a disciple of John (*Eusebius, op. cit., III, 36; V, 20*) whose contemporary he was for nearly twenty years.

<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01637a.htm>

## Apostolic Fathers

Successors to the Apostles

Ignatius of Antioch	c. 35-107 CE
Polycarp of Smyrna	c. 69-155 CE
Papias of Hierapolis	c. 60-130 CE
Clement of Rome	c. 30-100 CE
Hermas	c. 100-150 CE
Barnabas, author of the Epistle of Barnabas	c. 1st century CE
Unknown author of the Didache	c. 1st century CE

Brave Software. (2024). Leo AI [Large language model]. Brave. <https://brave.com/>

## Bishops

Church Leadership Hierarchy



## Bishops

### Church Leadership Hierarchy

- Following the apostolic period, the role of bishop became more defined.
- At the beginning of the second century, Ignatius of Antioch was the first to argue for a **monarchial bishop** (a single bishop over all house churches in an area). He made hierarchical distinction between the monarchial bishop, the **priests**, and the deacons.
- By the second century, bishops are defined as the only clergy to whom the ordination to priesthood (*presbyterate*) is entrusted. Jerome says that the power of ordination is possessed by the bishops alone, and not by the priests.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishop#References> • <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12409a.htm> • (Ep. ad Magnes., vi and passim)

## Bishops

### Church Leadership Hierarchy

- Over the next few centuries, the Roman Catholic priesthood continued to evolve. The Second Lateran Council in 1139 formally mandated clerical celibacy for the universal Church.
- The Council of Trent (1545-1563) defined the “sacrament of holy orders,” specifying priestly ordination as a “sacrament” which had three essentials: outward sign, interior grace, and institution by Christ.

Brave Software. (2024). Leo AI [Large language model]. Brave. <https://brave.com/> • <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12409a.htm>

## The Bishop of Rome

### Origins of the Roman Papacy

## The Roman Papacy

### Origins

- The concept of the papacy as we understand it today did not fully emerge until the 4th century.
- The early Christian communities were decentralized, and the bishop of Rome's authority was not universally recognized.
- So concept of a pope and the papacy's development was a gradual process, influenced by various factors, including theological debates, imperial politics, and ecclesiastical organization.

Brave Software. (2024). Leo AI [Large language model]. Brave. <https://brave.com/>



## The Roman Papacy

### Origins

The Roman Papacy traces its origins to the early Christian community in Rome.

- According to Catholic tradition, Jesus appointed Peter as the leader of his disciples, and Peter later became the first pope, serving around AD 34-64.
- In one of the earliest written records implying a papal succession, **Irenaeus** (c 180-202) mentions Linus as the successor of Peter. (*Against Heresies, Book III, Chapter 3*). Eusebius (c.260-340) also lists Linus as the second bishop of Rome, following Peter. (*Ecclesiastical History (Book III, Chapter 2)*).

Brave Software. (2024). Leo AI [Large language model]. Brave. <https://brave.com/>

## The Roman Papacy

### Origins

- **Tertullian** (c. 160-220) mentions Clement as the successor of Peter, contradicting the Catholic tradition. However, the reference affirms that the concept of a papal succession was being debated during this period. (*Prescription Against Heretics Chapter 36*)
- In his commentary on Matthew 16:18, **Origen** (c. 185-254) refers to Peter as the "rock" and implies that his successor would hold a special authority. While not directly mentioning the papacy, his comments contribute to the development of papal theology, *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on **this rock** I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18 ESV)*

Brave Software. (2024). Leo AI [Large language model]. Brave. <https://brave.com/>

## The Roman Papacy

### List of Popes

- The Church of Rome has had 266 popes.
- Wikipedia's article entitled "List of Popes" provides a detailed list in chronological order with the following info:
  - Pontiff number
  - Years of office
  - Latin and English name
  - Place of birth and death
  - Age at start and end of papacy
  - Notes regarding significance

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_popes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_popes)



Medallions of the Popes

Basilica of Saint Peter Outside the Walls

Image Source: Antoine Tavernaux, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons



# Prominent Popes

The Roman Catholic Church

## Prominent Popes

The Bishop of Rome

- Time does not allow a review of the life and work of 266 Popes.
- However, a brief look at a couple of early influential popes will give us an idea of their historical backgrounds, roles and impact.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Leo the Great 440–461

Prominent Popes

## Leo the Great 440–461

Prominent Popes

- Pope Leo I, also known as Leo the Great, was born around AD 400 in Tuscany, Italy. Little is known about his early life and family background. However, it is generally believed that he came from a noble Roman family. His upbringing in a Christian environment likely influenced his deep commitment to the Church and his future role as a religious leader.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>



## Leo the Great 440–461

### Prominent Popes

- Before becoming pope, Leo was highly regarded within the Church. He served as a deacon under Pope Celestine I and Pope Sixtus III. During this time, he gained a reputation for his **administrative** skills and **theological** insight.
- Leo was also a **diplomat**, sent on missions by the papacy to resolve disputes within the Church and with secular authorities. His work as an envoy to reconcile conflicts between the Roman governor of Gaul and the imperial court in Ravenna further solidified his standing within the Church.
- Leo became pope in 440 and served until 461.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Leo the Great 440–461

### Prominent Popes

- Pope Leo I played a crucial role in defining Christian **doctrine**, particularly at the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451. His *Tome of Leo* clarified the nature of Christ as both fully divine and fully human, which helped resolve Christological debates. It was adopted by the council, and became a cornerstone of Christian theology.
- Leo also worked to combat various heresies, such as Pelagianism and Manichaeism, and sought to unify the Church under clear and orthodox teachings.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Leo the Great 440–461

### Prominent Popes

- Pope Leo I is also credited with significantly strengthening the role and authority of the papacy. He made administrative reforms to strengthen the Church's structure and discipline.
- He emphasized the primacy of the Bishop of Rome, asserting that the pope was the direct successor of Saint Peter and therefore held supreme authority over all other bishops. This concept of papal supremacy became a cornerstone of Catholic doctrine.
- Leo also worked to solidify the pope's role as both a **spiritual** and **political** leader, which laid the foundation for the medieval papacy's influence in European politics.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Leo the Great 440–461

### Prominent Popes

- Politically one of his most famous accomplishments was his diplomatic mission in AD 452, where he met Attila the Hun and persuaded him to spare Rome from destruction. Although the exact details are unclear, this event solidified Leo's reputation as a powerful and respected leader.
- In AD 455, Leo also played a role in mitigating the damage caused by the Vandals when they sacked Rome. While unable to prevent the sacking, he negotiated with their leader, Genseric, to minimize bloodshed and destruction.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>



## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

- Pope Gregory I, also known as Gregory the Great, was born around 540 into a wealthy and influential Roman family with a strong Christian heritage. His father, Gordianus, was a senator and possibly held the position of a Roman prefect.
- Gregory's family owned substantial estates in Sicily and Rome, and several family members were active in the Church, including his great-great-grandfather, Pope Felix III.
- Gregory's upbringing in such a devout and prominent family likely influenced his deep commitment to the Church.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

- Before becoming pope, Gregory had a distinguished career in both secular and ecclesiastical roles.
- Initially, he pursued a civil career and became the Prefect of Rome, the highest civil office in the city, around 573.
- After his father's death, Gregory gave up his political career, converted his family home into a monastery dedicated to Saint Andrew, and became a monk.
- He embraced the **monastic** life with fervor and even founded six additional monasteries on his Sicilian estates.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

- Gregory was deeply committed to monastic life, and his promotion of monastic ideals influenced the spread and development of monasticism throughout Europe. He is considered one of the founders of medieval monasticism, and his emphasis on asceticism and spiritual discipline shaped the Church's spiritual life for centuries.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>



## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

- Gregory was ordained as a deacon and served as a papal ambassador to the Byzantine court in Constantinople, where he gained valuable experience in diplomacy and Church affairs.
- After returning to Rome, he became an advisor to Pope Pelagius II and was eventually chosen as his successor in AD 590.
- Pope Gregory the Great fundamentally transformed the papacy by expanding its role and influence, both spiritually and politically.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

- Gregory was a prolific writer. His writings had a lasting impact on the Church that he is one of the four original Doctors of the Church, recognized for having made a significant contribution to theology or **doctrine** through their research, study, or writing.
- He emphasized the pope's responsibility as a **shepherd** to the people, focusing on **pastoral care**, charity, and the welfare of the poor. His *Regula Pastoralis* ("Pastoral Care") had a lasting impact on the Church, becoming a key text for bishops and priests, emphasizing the importance of humility, piety, and the pastoral role of clergy.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/> • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor\\_of\\_the\\_Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_of_the_Church)

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

- Gregory made significant contributions to the Church's **liturgy**, including the development of the **Gregorian Chant**, which became a central element of Western liturgical music. He also reformed the **Mass** and the Divine Office, **standardizing practices** across the Church.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

- Gregory was a strong advocate for **spreading Christianity** beyond the boundaries of the Roman Empire. He famously sent Augustine of Canterbury and a group of monks to convert the Anglo-Saxons in England, an effort that successfully established Christianity in the region.
- He redefined the relationship between the papacy and the broader Church, emphasizing the pope's authority over all Christians, not just in Rome but throughout Christendom.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>



## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

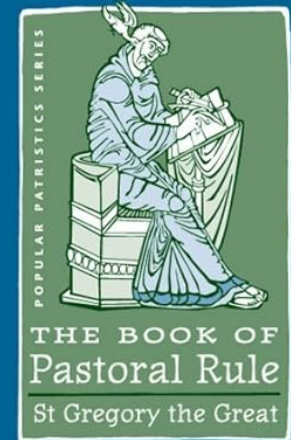
- Gregory also strengthened the **administrative** functions of the papacy, particularly in managing Church **lands** and resources, known as the "Patrimony of Saint Peter."
- This increased the **financial** stability and independence of the papacy, allowing it to play a more significant role in both ecclesiastical and secular matters.
- Gregory played a crucial role in stabilizing Rome and the surrounding areas during a time of crisis. He negotiated with the Lombards, who were threatening Rome, and took on **civil responsibilities**, such as managing food distribution and organizing defenses, effectively acting as a **political leader** in addition to his papal duties.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

- Gregory's book on pastoral rule is still valuable as a resource that carefully details the duties and obligations of the clergy concerning the spiritual formation of their flock.
- This 2007 translation in English was the first in more than 50 years.
- Here is a sampling of the content...



## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

#### *Qualifications for leadership...*

- The inexperienced should not attain authority (29)
- No one should assume a place of leadership who cannot put into practice what he has learned by study (31)
- That the supervision of others cannot disturb the concentration of the mind (34)
- At times some laudably seek the office of preaching, while others, just as laudably, are brought to it by compulsion (38)

St. Gregory the Great, Translation and Introduction by George E. Emacopoulos, "Concerning the life of the pastor," *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, (Crestwood: New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007), pp. 29-48)

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

#### *Qualifications for leadership...*

- Concerning those who lust to govern and seize upon apostolic phrases to serve their own desires (40)
- The mind of those who wish for preeminence, for the most part, flatters itself with a fictional promise to perform good works (41)
- Concerning what sort of person should not come to a position of spiritual leadership (44)

St. Gregory the Great, Translation and Introduction by George E. Emacopoulos, "Concerning the life of the pastor," *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, (Crestwood: New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007), pp. 29-48)



## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

#### *Life of the pastor...*

- That the spiritual director should always be the first in service (51)
- That the spiritual director be discerning in silence and profitable in speech (54)
- That the spiritual director should be a compassionate neighbor to anyone and superior to all in contemplation (58)
- That the spiritual director should attentively consider that many vices appear as virtues (76)

St. Gregory the Great, Translation and Introduction by George E. Emacopoulos, "Concerning the life of the pastor," *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, (Crestwood: New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007), pp. 29-48)

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

#### *Spiritual mentoring...*

- Advising men and women, the young and the old, the poor and rich (90)
- Subordinates and leaders (93)
- The wise of the world and the dull (97)
- The bold and the modest (99)
- The forward and the timid (100)
- The impatient and the patient (102)
- The sincere and the insincere (110)
- The healthy and the sick (113)

St. Gregory the Great, Translation and Introduction by George E. Emacopoulos, "Concerning the life of the pastor," *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, (Crestwood: New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007), pp. 87-208)

## Gregory the Great 590-604

### Prominent Popes

The spiritual director ought to know that there are many vices that appear as virtues. For example, greed disguises itself as frugality and wastefulness is thought to be generosity. Often laziness is accounted kindness and wrath appears to be spiritual zeal. And excessive haste is confused with the efficiency of promptness, while tardiness is taken for serious deliberation. It is necessary, therefore, that the director of souls carefully discern the difference between the virtues and vices so that, on the one hand, he does not allow greed to take hold of the heart of [the sinner] who appears frugal or, on the other hand, so that he does not allow another to boast of his generosity, when, in effect, he is simply being wasteful. Moreover, the director must be careful that he not pass over what he should punish, and thereby drag the laity with him to an eternal punishment. Reciprocally, he must not punish so forcefully that he sins more grievously himself. He must not spoil his opportunity for good and serious work with immature anticipation, nor should he postpone good works because they might transform into something evil.

St. Gregory the Great, Translation and Introduction by George E. Emacopoulos, "Concerning the life of the pastor," *The Book of Pastoral Rule*, (Crestwood: New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2007), p. 76)

## Role of the Pope

### The Bishop of Rome



## The Roman Papacy

### Role of the Pope

Historically, the pope has acted as both a spiritual leader and political figure.

- The pope serves as the **spiritual head** of the worldwide Catholic Church where today he is responsible for preserving doctrinal purity and unity among its more than 1.3 billion members. This centralization of spiritual authority was key to maintaining doctrinal consistency across cultures and time periods.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## The Roman Papacy

### Role of the Pope

One of the doctrines associated with this role is **papal infallibility**.

- Specifically, the doctrine holds that the pope, when speaking *ex cathedra* (from the chair of Saint Peter) on matters of faith and morals, is protected from error by the Holy Spirit.
- It is based on the belief that Christ granted Peter and his successors unique authority to guide the Church in truth (Matthew 16:18-19).
- Though it probably emerged earlier, this doctrine was not formally defined until the First Vatican Council in 1870.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/> • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal\\_infallibility](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_infallibility)

## The Roman Papacy

### Role of the Pope

The pope has also acted as a political figure.

- Today, as the sovereign of Vatican City, the world's smallest independent state, the pope is a political head of state, engaging in international diplomacy and addressing global issues such as human rights, peace, and social justice.
- In Roman times, tensions developed when the emperor interfered in church affairs and the pope interfered in political affairs.
- This **political role** was even more pronounced during the medieval period, when popes wielded considerable influence over kings and emperors.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## Politics & Religion

### Of Emperors and Popes



## Politics & Religion

### Of Emperors and Popes

- The conflicts between the pope and Roman emperors were primarily about authority—religious versus political power.
- The pope's claim to spiritual supremacy clashed with the emperor's desire for control, especially when he used it to influence the political as well as religious landscape.
- On the other hand, emperors often used political power to influence the religious, especially when they played critical roles in shaping Christian doctrine through councils.
- We can illustrate these power clashes in several controversies...

## Constantine and the Council of Nicaea

### Politics and Religion 325

- Although Emperor Constantine was a major supporter of Christianity, tensions arose between him and church leaders, particularly over his involvement in theological disputes.
- Constantine convened the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 to resolve the "Arian controversy." Arius taught that Jesus was a created being and not fully divine.
- Though the Pope sent representatives to the Council, he was not directly involved. This marked the first major instance of a Roman emperor taking a leading role in church affairs and set a precedent for future imperial involvement in religious matters.

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## Constantine and the Council of Nicaea

### Politics and Religion 325

- Nevertheless, the Nicene Creed, which affirmed Christ's divinity, was established as the official doctrine of the Church.
- While the Council of Nicaea was seen as a victory for orthodoxy, it also foreshadowed the emerging power struggles between the pope's spiritual authority and the emperor's political control over religious matters.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## The Photian Schism

### Politics and Religion 858–867

- When the Byzantine Emperor Michael III deposed Patriarch Ignatius of Constantinople, Pope Nicholas I objected, refusing to recognize the replacement Photius as legitimate. The dispute also involved broader theological and political differences between East and West.
- The conflict escalated into mutual excommunications, but it was eventually resolved in 867 when Photius was deposed and Ignatius was reinstated.
- The schism underscored growing alienation between the Eastern and Western Churches, which would culminate in the Great Schism of 1054.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>



## The East-West Schism

Politics and Religion 1054

- Tensions between the Roman pope and the Byzantine emperor reached a climax in 1054 known as the Great Schism.
- Disputes over theological issues (such as the use of leavened or unleavened bread in the Eucharist) and the wording of the Nicene Creed fueled the tensions.
- However, the deeper conflict was over authority: the Pope in Rome claimed supremacy over all Christendom, while the Patriarch of Constantinople, supported by the Byzantine emperors, resisted this claim, viewing himself as equal to the pope in ecclesiastical authority.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## The East-West Schism

Politics and Religion 1054

- In 1054, legates from Pope Leo IX excommunicated the Patriarch of Constantinople, Michael Cerularius. The move was reciprocated.
- This formalized the split between the Western (Roman Catholic) and Eastern (Orthodox) Churches, the two branches of Christianity which persist to this day.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

## The Investiture Controversy

Politics and Religion 1075-1122

- One of the most famous and prolonged conflicts between the papacy and the Holy Roman emperors centered on the question of who held the authority to appoint bishops and other church officials.
- Traditionally, emperors had the right to appoint bishops and abbots within their realms, a practice that allowed them to control the Church's political influence.
- Pope Gregory VII, however, argued that only the Church, through the pope, had the authority to appoint bishops, which was formalized in the papal decree *Dictatus Papae*.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/> • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investiture\\_Controversy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investiture_Controversy)

## The Investiture Controversy

Politics and Religion 1075-1122

- One clause asserted that the pope held the exclusive power to depose an emperor. This led to a direct confrontation with Emperor Henry IV, who refused to relinquish his authority over investiture.
- The turning point came when the pope excommunicated king Henry. In 1077, Henry traveled to Canossa, where he famously stood in the snow for three days as a penitent to be absolved by the pope.
- While Henry regained imperial power, the issue was not fully resolved until the Concordat of Worms in 1122, which established a compromise where the emperor retained a role in secular appointments, but acknowledged the pope's spiritual authority over Church positions.

OpenAI. (2024). ChatGPT (Version GPT-4) [Large language model]. OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/> • [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investiture\\_Controversy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investiture_Controversy)



