

Saint Alexandros, Patriarch of Constantinople

August 30

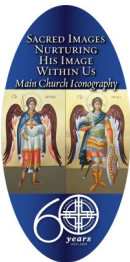


Our father among the saints, Alexander of Constantinople, was the first bishop of Constantinople, and participated in the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea, which fought against the Arian heresy.

St. Alexander was elected as a vicar to assist St. Metrophanes, who was the bishop of Byzantium during the early decades of the fourth century, and was of great age by the time of the Council at Nicea. Alexander succeeded Metrophanes upon his repose.

St. Alexander supported the defense of the Trinitarian position at the Council, which eventually resulted in the Council's condemnation of Arius and Arianism. After the Council, Arius wanted to be received back into communion, and with the support of Eusebius of Nicomedia, who convinced him, Constantine I commanded Alexander to formally receive Arius back into communion. According to Socrates Scholasticus, Arius did not, in fact repent of his heresy, but was equivocating, of which Bishop Alexander was aware. Alexander, though threatened by the Eusebians with deposition and banishment, persisted in his refusal to admit Arius back into the Church. Alexander shut himself up in the Church of Hagia Irene, which at that time was the cathedral of Constantinople, in fervent prayer that God would take him from this world, rather than be forced to restore someone to communion whom he feared was only feigning repentance. As it happened, Arius died in 336 on his way to the church, before he could be received back into communion.

Apolytikion: O God of our Fathers, ever dealing with us according to Thy gentleness: take not Thy mercy from us, but by their entreaties guide our life in peace.



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