Chronology of the Russian Orthodox Church
(10th Century to 1917)

mid-10th c. – numerous Christians in early Rus’ principalities; they have their own churches

945–962 – rule of Ol’ga; first Christian ruler in Kiev

986 – Volodimir/Vladimir visited in Kiev by envoys — Muslim Volga Bulgars, German Roman Catholics, Jewish Khazars, Orthodox Byzantines seeking to convert him to their religion

989 – Christianization of Rus’ by Volodimir/Vladimir; traditional date: 988

1015 – Volodimir/Vladimir dies; murder of the brothers Boris and Gleb; first Rus’ian saints

1018 – Iaroslav the Wise becomes prince of Kiev

1037 – Cathedral of St. Sophia in Kiev is begun

1050–1054 – Metropolitan Iliarion, reign of; his Sermon on Law and Grace (1047–1049)

1051 – foundation of the Monastery of the Caves (Kievo-Pechersk Lavra) in Kiev

1051–1053 – Iaroslav’s Church Statute issued; lay judiciary excluded from ecclesiastical affairs

1054 – Great Schism of Latin Christianity with that of the Orthodox East

1062 – Iziaslav’s Monastery of St. Dimitrii takes Varlaam from the Monastery of the Caves to be its first abbot

1073 – death of St. Antonii (of the Monastery of the Caves)

1074 – death of St. Feodosii (of the Monastery of the Caves)

1083–1088 – Nestor writes the Life of Our Venerable Father Feodosii

1117 – writing of the Povest’ vremennykh let (Tale of Bygone Years) by Vasili, a monk of the Monastery of the Caves—hagiographical text Narrative and Passion and the Encomium of the Holy Martyrs Boris and Gleb derives from it

Tapestry of Russian Christianity: Studies in History and Culture. Nickolas Lupinin, Donald Ostrowski and Jennifer B. Spock, eds. Columbus, Ohio: Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures and the Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies, The Ohio State University, 2016, xxxiv–xlii.

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1131-1156 – Bishop Nifont of Novgorod; gives answers to famous pentic- 
tental text *Voproshenie Kirika* (*Questions of Kirik*)

1165 – Il’ia becomes first archbishop of Novgorod

1185 – Prince Vsevolod “Big-Nest” rejects the Kievan metropolitan’s, 
Nikifor’s, nominee for bishop of Rostov in favor of his own 
nominee, Luka

1192/93 – First Varlaam of Khutyn dies

1193–1197 – St. Dimitrii Cathedral in Vladimir is constructed

1199 – Sviatoslav Vsevolodovich appointed prince of Novgorod; 
Mitrofan becomes archbishop of Novgorod

1200 – Dobrynia ladreikovich, the future Archbishop Antonii of 
Novgorod, travels to Constantinople

1204 – Fourth Crusade sacks Constantinople

1210 – Antonii chosen as archbishop of Novgorod to replace 
Mitrofan

1211 – Antonii consecrated as archbishop of Novgorod (first time)

1219 – Antonii steps down from the archiepiscopal position so 
Mitrofan can replace him

1223 – Archbishop Mitrofan dies

1225 – Antonii consecrated as archbishop of Novgorod (second time)

1228 – Antonii steps down from the archiepiscopal position because 
of ill health and returns to Khutyn Monastery

1232 – Antonii, former archbishop of Novgorod dies

1237–1240 – Mongol invasion of Rus’

1240 – Mongols sack Kiev

1243 – Second Varlaam of Khutyn dies

1250 – Kirill becomes metropolitan of Rus’

1261 – Constantinople recaptured by Greeks

1280/1 – Metropolitan Kirill dies

1282 – Maksim becomes metropolitan of Rus’

1284 – traditional date for canonization of Ol’ga and Vladimir— 
“equal to the apostles”

1299/1300 – Metropolitan Maksim moves to Vladimir-on-the-Kliazma

1305 – Metropolitan Maksim dies

1326 – Metropolitan Peter dies; Cathedral of the Assumption 
founded in Moscow

1330 – Savior of the Forest Church is built in Moscow
1332 - stone Church of the Archangel Michael replaces wooden one in the Moscow Kremlin; stone Church of St. John Climacus built in the Moscow Kremlin
1340 - Approximate year of birth of Feofan Grek, icon painter
1347 - Grand Prince Semen pays cost of repairing St. Sophia Cathedral in Constantinople
1353 - Metropolitan Feognost dies
1359 - Metropolitan Aleksei becomes regent for Prince Dmitrii of Moscow
1360 - approximate year of birth of Andrei Rublev, icon painter
1378 - Feofan Grek decorates Church of the Transfiguration in Novgorod
1381 - Kiprian becomes metropolitan of Rus’
1385 - Metropolitan Kiprian travels to Sarai, capital of the Ulus of Jochi
1388 - Metropolitan Theognostus of Trebizond travels to Moscow seeking donations
1389 - Metropolitan Pimen dies;
1390 - Kiprian becomes metropolitan of Rus’
1392 - death of Sergei Radonezhskii, co-founder (with his brother Stefan) of the Holy Trinity Monastery near Moscow
1393 - Patriarch Antonios of Constantinople writes letter upbraiding Grand Prince Vasili I
1406 - Metropolitan Kiprian dies
1408 - Fotii (Photius) becomes metropolitan of Rus’
1410 - approximate year of death of Feofan Grek, icon painter
1430 - approximate year of death of Andrei Rublev, icon painter, although 1428 is also commemorated
1431 - Metropolitan Fotii dies
1437 - Isidor appointed metropolitan of Rus’; beginning of the Council of Florence
1439 - Council of Florence ends
1441 - Metropolitan Isidor returns to Moscow; conducts church service in Catholic manner and is imprisoned
1443 - Isidor flees Moscow
1448 - council of bishops elects Iona as metropolitan of Rus’
1453 - fall of Constantinople to Ottoman Turks
1461 - Metropolitan Iona writes letter to Khan Mahmud of Kazan’; death of Metropolitan Iona; Feodosii becomes metropolitan
1464 – Metropolitan Feodosii resigns; Filipp becomes metropolitan
1468 – Ivan III refuses Pskov a separate bishop; Ivan III presents Great Zion to Assumption Cathedral
1473 – Metropolitan Filipp dies; Gerontii becomes metropolitan of Rus’
1489 – Cathedral of the Annunciation in the Moscow Kremlin is completed; death of Metropolitan Gerontii
1490 – Zosima becomes metropolitan; church council investigates charges of heresy
1492 – Metropolitan Zosima begins to refer to Ivan III as samoderzhets (autocrat)
1494 – Zosima resigns as metropolitan
1499 – Gennadii Bible is completed; Vassian Patrikeev tonsured
1503 – church council concerning widower priests and simony
1504 – leaders of Rus’ heretics punished
1505 – new stone Church of the Archangel Michael is constructed in the Moscow Kremlin; Tsarevich Kudaikul converts to Christianity taking the baptismal name of Peter
1506 – Tsarevich Peter marries Elena Ivanovna, sister of Grand Prince Vasilii III
1508 – Nil Sorski dies
1511 – Metropolitan Simon resigns; Varlaam becomes metropolitan
1515 – Iosif of Volokolamsk, hegumen of the Iosifov Monastery dies
1518 – Maksim Grek arrives in Moscow; Patriarch Theoleptos of Constantinople refers to Vasilii III using the term “tsar”
1521 – Metropolitan Varlaam resigns
1522 – Daniil becomes metropolitan of Rus’
1525 – first trial of Maksim Grek for heresy
1526 – Makarii becomes archbishop of Novgorod
1531 – trial of Vassian Patrikeev for heresy; second trial of Maksim Grek for heresy
1539 – Metropolitan Daniil is deposed; loasaf becomes metropolitan
1542 – Metropolitan loasaf is deposed; Makarii becomes metropolitan
1551 – Stoglav Council (Council of a Hundred Chapters) meets
1555 – “Sovereign’s Genealogy” ("Gosudarev rodoslovet’s") compiled
1556 (Oct) – commemoration list (pamiat’) compiled at the behest of Ivan IV
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1563 – Metropolitan Makarii dies;
1566 – Metropolitan Afanasii resigns; German becomes metropolitan for two days, then ousted; Filipp becomes metropolitan
1568 – Synod deposes Metropolitan Filipp; Kirill becomes metropolitan
1569 – former Metropolitan Filipp is murdered
1572 – church council decides Ivan IV can marry a fourth time, but imposes a penance on him; Metropolitan Kirill dies; Antonii becomes metropolitan
1573 – Tsar Sain Bulat converts to Christianity taking the name Simeon Bekbulatovich
1580 – monasteries agree at a church council to register all new land acquisitions with the crown in return for permission to keep all the lands they already held
1582 – Antonio Possevino visits Moscow as ambassador of Pope Gregory XIII
1583 – Synodikons sent by Ivan IV begin to arrive at monasteries
1586 – Metropolitan Dionisii is deposed; lov becomes metropolitan
1589 – Patriarchate of Moscow established; lov becomes first patriarch of Moscow
1613 – First Romanov ruler, Tsar Michael, elected by a zemskii sobor (council of the land)
1619 – Tsar Michael’s father returns to Moscow from Polish imprisonment; becomes Patriarch Filaret and co-ruler of Muscovy
1631 – Znamenskii Monastery founded in Moscow on property donated by Tsar Michael
1633 – Patriarch Filaret dies
1642–1644 – completion of iconography of the Dormition (Uspenskii) Cathedral in the Moscow Kremlin
1645 – Peter Mohyla publishes his Short Catechism (Sobranie kratkiia nauki ob artikulakh very) in Kiev
1649 – Mohyla’s Short Catechism reissued in Moscow; establishment of Monastyrskii Prikaz (Monastery Chancellery) in Moscow; Mohyla dies; Nikon is chosen metropolitan of Novgorod
1650 – publication of Russian Nomocanon (Kormchaia Kniga)
1652 – Patriarch Iosif dies; Nikon is chosen patriarch; relics of former Metropolitan Filipp are brought to Moscow
1653 – church council begins instituting reforms; Ivan Neronov and Archpriest Avvakum are exiled; revised edition of Russian Nomocanon published; Printing Office publishes a Psalter; Tsar Alexis places Patriarch Nikon in charge of Printing Office

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1654 – church council takes up correction of texts and revision of church manuals; Arsenii Sukhanov makes trip to Mt. Athos to buy books and manuscripts

1655 – church council takes up issue of book correction again; Patriarch Makarios of Antioch arrives in Moscow

1656 – church council supports Patriarch Nikon; Ivan Neronov is tried and condemned

1658 – Nikon leaves the patriarchal see in July

1660 – church council reaches inconclusive results concerning Patriarch Nikon; Avvakum is recalled from exile

1664 – Avvakum returns to Moscow from exile

1666–1667 – council deposes Patriarch Nikon but accepts his reforms

1668 – beginning of rebellion at Solovki Monastery against new reforms

1672 – Patriarch Ioasaf dies; Pitirim is chosen patriarch

1673 – Patriarch Pitirim dies

1674 – Ioakim is chosen patriarch

1677 – Monastery Chancellery is closed; Synodikon compiled by Tsar Fedor Alekseevich

1681 – former Patriarch Nikon dies; Avvakum is burned at the stake

1687 – Slaviao-Greek-Latin-Academy founded in Moscow; Likhudi brothers, Ioannikii and Sofronii, in charge

1690 – Patriarch Ioakim dies; Adrian is chosen patriarch

1700 – Patriarch Adrian dies

1701 – monasteries are obliged to give their revenues to the state

1721 – patriarchate is abolished; replaced by Holy Synod

1722–1794 – Paisii Velichkovskii, Saint

1724–1783 – Tikhon of Zadonsk, Saint

1727 – diocese of Irkutsk is founded

1742 – The Holy Trinity Seminary is founded; formation of the Moscow and St. Petersburg eparchies

1751 – corrected translation of the Bible (the Elizabeth Bible) issued in Moscow

1763 – trial of Metropolitan Arsenii (Matsievich)

1764 – decree of Catherine II on the secularization/confiscation of ecclesiastical properties

1771 – Archbishop Amvrosii of Moscow is murdered
1772 – Mogilev diocese (modern-day Belarus) is joined to the Russian Orthodox Church
1773 – a decree on religious toleration is issued
1782–1867 – Filaret Drozdov, metropolitan of Moscow and author
1788–1860 – Elder Makarii of Optina Pustyn’
1793 – first Russian edition of the *Philokalia*
1794 – first Russian missionaries arrive on Kodiak Island
1795–1865 – Elder Antonii of Optina Pustyn’ (Optina Hermitage)
1795–1865 – Makarii Bulgakov: archbishop of Kharkov, metropolitan of Moscow; prolific author of multi-volume works on the history of the Russian Church
1795–1867 – Elder Leonid of Optina Pustyn’
1796 – civil honors are introduced for clergy; clergy is also made exempt from corporal punishment
1799 – censorship of religious texts is separated from that of secular texts
1805 – publication of Metropolitan Platon’s short history of the Russian Church
1807–1822 – religious mission in China headed by Archimandrite Iakinf (Bichurin)
1811 – formation of the Georgian exarchate within the Russian Orthodox Church
1812–1891 – Elder Amvrosii of Optina Pustyn’
1813 – founding of the Kishinev diocese; the Bible Society is established
1815 – Jesuits forbidden to enter St. Petersburg and Moscow
1815–1894 – Theophan the Recluse (Feofan Otshel’nik), Saint
1820 – translation of the New Testament into Russian is completed; Jesuits banned from Russia
1822–1891 – Archimandrite Leonid Kavelin (scholar)
1824 – Filaret (Drozdov’s) “catechism” is published
1826 – the Bible Society is closed
1829 – founding of the Don diocese
1834 – founding of the Tomsk diocese
1842 – the Kazan’ Theological Academy is opened
1865 – missionary society in St. Petersburg is organized
1867 – Metropolitan Filaret (Drozdov) dies
1870 – creation of an Orthodox mission to Japan headed by Fr. Nikolai Kasatkin
1876 – translation of the Bible into Russian is completed
1883 – some civil rights granted to Old Believers
1888 – 900-year anniversary of the Christianization of Russia is celebrated
1892 – diocese of Finland is organized with its seat in Vyborg; 500-year anniversary of the passing of St. Sergei Radonezhskii is commemorated
1901–1903 – religio-philosophical seminars in St. Petersburg held with the participation of leading Russian philosophers, chaired by Bishop Sergii (Stragorodskii)
1903 – Seraphim of Sarov is canonized
1904–1905 – First edition of Tolkovaia Bibliia published in journal Strannik
1905 – K. P. Pobedonostsev is fired as procurator of the Holy Synod
1908 – Archbishop Nikon, exarch of Georgia, is murdered
1909 – national monastic conference is held at Holy Trinity Monastery
1910 – All-Russian Old Believer congress
1913 – glorification of Patriarch Germogen
1917 – opening of the All-Russian Church Council