

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 Ilarion, 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 Vasilii, 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

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1131–1156 – Bishop Nifont of Novgorod; gives answers to famous penitential 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 Iadreibovich, 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

CHRONOLOGY

- 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 Vasillii 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

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- 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 Vasiliu III
- 1508 – Nil Sorskii 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 Vasiliu 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; Iosaf becomes metropolitan
- 1542 – Metropolitan Iosaf is deposed; Makarii becomes metropolitan
- 1551 – Stoglav Council (Council of a Hundred Chapters) meets
- 1555 – “Sovereign’s Genealogy” (“*Gosudarev rodoslovets*”) compiled
- 1556 (Oct) –
1557 (Jan) – commemoration list (*pamiat’*) compiled at the behest of Ivan IV

CHRONOLOGY

- 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; Iov becomes metropolitan
- 1589 – Patriarchate of Moscow established; Iov 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 kratkiiia 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

CHRONOLOGY

- 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 – Slaviano-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

CHRONOLOGY

- 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 Khar’kov, 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 Iakim (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 Otshef’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

CHRONOLOGY

- 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