

## Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

18 March



### About Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Saint Cyril was born in the year 315 of Christian parents and succeeded Maximus as Bishop of Jerusalem in the year 348. He was active in combatting the Arian heresy and was exiled three times as result of teaching Jesus was both human and divine.

Cyril is best known for twenty-three lectures he gave to catechumens, which encompass introductory teachings through postbaptismal mystagogy. From these lectures we learn a great deal about catechetical methods and liturgical practices in the early Church. We also learn much **about the Church's development on its teaching on the Eucharist.**

He was much loved by the people of Jerusalem during his lifetime for his charitable works and his generosity to the poor. He sold gifts from the emperor to raise money for the poor.

He is one of the Greek Fathers of the Church and is venerated by Catholics, Orthodox and Anglicans alike. He was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1883.

### What can we learn from Saint Cyril's life?

Like so many bishops of his day, Saint Cyril had to combat the Arian heresy which taught that Jesus was not divine, and as such it did not believe in or teach the Trinity. Saint Cyril did not stand by idly and wait for this problem to go away, rather he combatted it head on even though it sent him into exile three times. He was not afraid to stand up for the Catholic faith and truths that it teaches.

We need to be willing to stand up for the Catholic faith and teach what the Church teaches not what we like or what we think the Church should teach.

He was also a man who put his prayer into concrete action by serving the needs of the poor. We may not be able to sell gifts or possessions to assist the poor, but we are all called to help the poor in our own way according to our abilities and the resources that we have available.

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Collect

O God, who through the Bishop Saint Cyril of Jerusalem led your Church in a wonderful way to a deeper sense of the mysteries of salvation, grant us, through his intercession, that we may so acknowledge your Son as to have life ever more abundantly. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel John 5:31-47

You place your hopes on Moses. but Moses will be your accuser

Jesus said to the Jews:

**'Were I to testify on my own behalf,**

my testimony would not be valid;

but there is another witness who can speak on my behalf, and I know that his testimony is valid.

You sent messengers to John,

and he gave his testimony to the truth:

not that I depend on human testimony;

no, it is for your salvation that I speak of this.

John was a lamp alight and shining

and for a time you were content to enjoy the light that he gave.

**But my testimony is greater than John's:**

the works my Father has given me to carry out,

these same works of mine testify

that the Father has sent me.

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Besides, the Father who sent me bears witness to me himself. You have never heard his voice, you have never seen his shape, and his word finds no home in you because you do not believe in the one he has sent. **'You study the scriptures,** believing that in them you have eternal life; now these same scriptures testify to me, and yet you refuse to come to me for life! As for human approval, this means nothing to me. Besides, I know you too well: you have no love of God in you. I have come in the name of my Father and you refuse to accept me; if someone else comes in his own name you will accept him. How can you believe, since you look to one another for approval and are not concerned with the approval that comes from the one God? Do not imagine that I am going to accuse you before the Father: you place your hopes on Moses, and Moses will be your accuser. If you really believed him you would believe me too, since it was I that he was writing about; but if you refuse to believe what he wrote, **how can you believe what I say?'**

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### Antiphon

I will place my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts;  
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people, says the Lord.

### Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem,  
the faith you did defend,  
by teaching God is One in Three;  
from this you would not bend.

You taught us that Jesus the Christ  
was human and divine,  
combatting a great heresy:  
through you the truth did shine.

You sold your possessions to aid,  
people who were in need.  
You were loved and admired for  
**this very gen'rous deed.**

O Christ, your servant, Cyril showed  
how great his love for you,  
through all he taught and all he wrote,  
daily his kindness grew.

Help us, O Christ, like Saint Cyril  
to live what you did teach:  
to pray and serve our neighbour too,  
the Gospel we will preach.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono  
Tune: 86.86; St Flavian

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