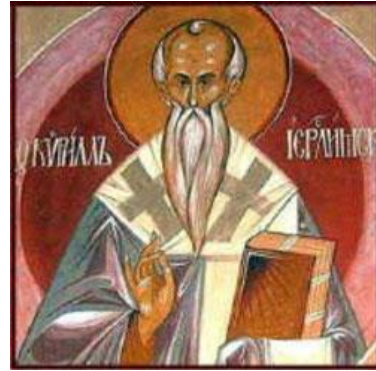


St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 315-386, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Feast Day: March 18th

Brief Biography

St. Cyril of Jerusalem was raised and educated in Jerusalem and was ordained a priest by Maximus, Bishop of Jerusalem. He was given responsibility for instructing catechumens and was made Bishop of Jerusalem in 349. At the time, the Church was confronting the Arian heresy, which sought to deny the divinity of Christ. Cyril staunchly defended His divinity.



Because of his opposition to the Arian heresy, he was expelled from Jerusalem three different times: first, by the Arian bishop Acacius in 357; again, after being reinstated by the Council of Seleucia in 359, by Acacius in 360; and finally by the Arian Emperor Valens in 367. He finally returned to Jerusalem in 378 and remained there for the rest of his life. He attended the Council of Constantinople in 381 and accepted the amended version of the Nicene Creed. His sermons on that creed and on the sacraments reveal his deep faith and an ability to teach the mysteries of Christianity in a way even the humblest could understand. (The Book of Saints, Victor Hoagland, C.P. , Regina Press, 1986)

Why St. Cyril of Jerusalem is identified with the Eucharist

Cyril wrote extensively on the Holy Eucharist as Sacrifice, Communion, and Real Presence. His writings...show us how unqualified was the faith of the early Church in the priestly powers of changing bread and wine into the living Jesus Christ. (CatholicCulture.org)

Brief Quotation

“The bread and wine of the Eucharist before the invocation of the holy and adorable Trinity were simply bread and wine. But after the invocation, the bread becomes the Body of Christ and the wine becomes the Blood of Christ.”

Source: *Catechetical Discourses*, per CatholicCulture.org