

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA

Announcement • Повідомлення

UOCC Delegation Marks Feast Day of the Holy Hierarchs

ISTANBUL, TURKEY – The feast day of the Three Holy Hierarchs, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom, was commemorated by the Orthodox Church on February 12, according to the Julian calendar. On this very day, February 12, 2015, the delegation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada had the honour of venerating the holy relics of St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom at their final resting place in the Patriarchal church of St. George at the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey. The delegation began its visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate on February 12, 2015.

St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom were the most influential theologians of the early Church, and they are venerated ecumenically in Christianity.

St. John Chrysostom is considered by theologians to be the foremost orator and preacher for the Orthodox Church. Orthodox Christians worldwide follow his words each Sunday. He composed the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. St. John is also well known for his writings on the spiritual upbringing of children. This advice is just as relevant today as it was during the times of early Christianity.

St. Basil the Great was an influential theologian. St. Basil has become famous for his humanitarian works caring for the poor and underprivileged. He is also known as one of the fathers of communal monasticism. He established guidelines for monastic life which includes community life, liturgical prayer, and manual labour.



UOCC Consistory Board member Dr. Peter Kondra next to the icon and holy relics of St. John Chrysostom.



UOCC Consistory Board member Vasyl Balan next to the icon and holy relics of St. Gregory the Theologian.

St. Gregory was an intellectual, theologian and religious leader. He was known as the most eloquent voice in the Second Ecumenical Synod in Constantinople in the year 381. This Synod completed the Nicene Creed as Orthodox know it today.

After these saints reposed, their relics were preserved in the capital of the Byzantine Empire, Constantinople, which is modern-day

Istanbul in Turkey. Later, the relics of these saints were taken from Constantinople to Rome after the Fourth Crusade in 1204. Eight hundred years later in November 2004, the relics of St. Gregory and St. John Chrysostom, the two renowned archbishops of Constantinople, were solemnly restored to their original resting place at the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a generous gift from Pope John Paul II. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew traveled to the Vatican on Nov. 27, 2004 to officially receive the relics in special ceremony. They are now preserved on the left aisle of the church of St. George at the Ecumenical Patriarchate. More recently, the relics of St. Basil were also returned from Rome.

Like icons, relics are a central aspect of Orthodox worship, underlining the transfiguration of the material world by divine grace.