Gregory of Nyssa, St.  
**Personal:** Bishop of Milan (374)  
Fame is chiefly as a theologian  
**Place and dates:** (Neocaesarea, now in Turkey) 335?-394  
**Writings:** Against Eunomius: a defense of the Nicene Creed, Great Catechetical Discourse: a defense of the Christian faith against Jews and pagans, On Faith: a treatise against the Arians, Ten Syllogisms: directed against the Apollinarists  
  
Ambrose, St.  
**Personal:** Bishop of Milan (374)  
Defended the churches of Milan against Arianism  
Friend of Monica, mother of Augustine, and finally brought Augustine into the Church  
**Place and dates:** (Tier, now in Germany) 340?-397  
  
Jerome, St.  
**Personal:** Biblical scholar  
Ordained a priest in 386  
Secretary to Pope Damasus I in 382  
Confronted many heresies, especially Pelagianism  
**Place and dates:** (Stridon, present day Slovenia) 345?-407  
**Writings:** The Vulgate: translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin, 383-384, in Rome  
  
John Chrysostom, St.  
**Personal:** Orained a priest in 386  
Greatest orator of the early Church  
Patriarch of Constantinople in 398  
**Place and dates:** (Antioch, Syria) 349?-407  
**Writings:** On the Priesthood, Homilies.  
Wrote commentaries, epistles, treatises, and liturgies  
  
Augustine, St.  
**Personal:** Son of Monica (332?-387)  
Born a pagan  
Converted in 387 and baptized by Ambrose  
Ordained a priest in 391  
Bishop of Hippo (395)  
Combated Manichean heresy (conflict of Good and Evil)  
Martin Luther and John Calvin were close students of the works of Augustine  
**Place and dates:** (Numidia, now Algeria) 354-430  
Cyril of Alexandria, St.  
**Personal:** Patriarch of Alexandria in 412  
Leader of the Council of Ephesus, 431  
Instrumental in condemning Nestorianism  
**Place and dates:** (Alexandria) 376-444  
**Writings:** Against Nestorius  
Against Julian the Apostate  
Prolific writer  
  
Gregory I, St. ("The Great")  
**Personal:** Prefect of Rome in 570  
Became a monk in 575  
Elected pope (r. 590-604)  
Enhanced prestige of the papacy  
Upheld Rome's traditional claims of church primacy over the patriarch of Constantinople  
Introduced liturgical reforms and Gregorian chant  
Extensive pastoral activity.  
Place and dates: (Rome) 540?-604  
**Writings:** Moralia: a commentary on the Book of Job  
Pastoral Care: describes the ideal bishop; instruction on the practice and nature of preaching  
Dialogues: legends of saints of his own time  
  
John Damascene, St.  
**Personal:** Financial officer to Saracen caliph  
Resigned in 700  
Entered a monastery and ordained a priest  
Opposed the Iconoclasts  
**Place and dates:** (Damascus, Syria) 675-749  
**Writings:** Source of Knowledge: three part text of dogmatic theology in the early Greek church; contains a complete theological system based on the early Greek fathers and synods of 4th-7th centuries  
  
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Apostolic and post-Apostolic Fathers of the Church  
The term "Apostolic Fathers" applies to certain disciples and successors of the twelve apostles. In a more restricted sense, the term is applied to a group of Greek-language writers who were among the martyrs and major figures of the 1st and 2nd centuries in the Christian Church.  
  
Clement I, St. (Clement of Rome)  
**Personal:** 4th Bishop of Rome  
Place and dates: r. 92 - 101  
**Writings:** I Clement or Letter to the Corinthians (c. 96): earliest piece of literature outside the NT historically attested; addressed disputes in the Church at Corinth; II Clement (a sermon)(c. 140): Clementine authorship disputed  
  
Ignatius of Antioch, St. **Personal:** Martyr for the faith  
Disciple of John the Evangelist  
Condemned to die by wild beasts in Rome  
Brought from Antioch to Rome and wrote seven letters to churches and individuals along the way Place and dates: d. 110  
**Writings:** Letter to Ephesians, Letter to Magnesians,Letter to Tralles, Letter to Philadelphians, Letter to Smyrnans, Letter to Polycarp of Smyrna, Letter to Romans  
These contain warnings against heretical doctrines; contain detailed summaries of doctrines; and a picture of Church organization with bishops, presbyters (elders) and deacons.  
First to stress Virgin Birth and to use the term "catholic church"  
  
Polycarp of Smyrna, St.  
**Personal:** Received a visit and letter from Ignatius  
Represented the Church of Asia Minor in meetings with Pope Anicetus  
Dating of Easter  
A teacher of Irenaeus  
Knew John the Evangelist and other apostles  
Was a disciple of John the Evangelist  
Place and dates: 69-155  
**Writings:** Polycarp to the Filipians  
Martyrdom of Polycarp (about him)  
  
Unknown Author of the Didache  
**Personal:** Unknown  
Place and dates: (Syria) 70-110?
Writings: Didache ("Teaching"): A compendium of moral precepts, instructions on organization of church communities, liturgical worship and regulation.

Barnabas
Personal: Surname of Joseph, a member of the early Christian church in Jerusalem (Acts 4:36)
Companion of Paul
Did missionary work with Mark (Acts 15:39)
Place and dates: c. 130
Writings: Letter of Barnabas, Allegorical interpretation of the Old Testament

Papias of Hierapolis
Personal: Contemporary of Polycarp
Knew of a collection of the "sayings of the Lord" to have been written in Aramaic or Hebrew by Matthew
Place and dates: (Phrygia) 120?

Hermas (Author Unknown)
Personal: Little known
Place and dates: (Rome) 140?
Writings: Mandates, Similitudes, The Shepherd: a vivid description of early Christianity

Post-Apostolic Fathers of the Church
The term "Post-Apostolic Fathers" is the name given by the Christian Church to the writers who established Christian doctrine before the 8th century. The writings of the Fathers or Patristic Literature synthesized Christian doctrine as found in the Bible, especially the gospels, the writings of the Apostolic Fathers, ecclesiastical dictums, and decisions of the Church councils.

Justin (Martyr), St.
Personal: Philosopher, theologian, early apologist, martyr
Convert to Christianity
Place and dates: (Rome) 100-165
Writings: Apologies for the Christians: erudite defense of Christians against charges of atheism and sedition,
Dialogue with Trypho the Jew: a record of an actual discussion at Ephesus; valuable information about 2nd century Christian Church

Irenaeus, St.
Personal: Heard the preaching of Polycarp the disciple of John the Evangelist
Appointed the bishop of Lyon (177)
Place and dates: (Asia Minor) 140?-202?

Clement of Alexandria
Personal: Greek theologian
Converted from paganism
Ordained a presbyter
A teacher of Origen
Place and dates: (Athens) 150?-215?
Writings: Against the Heresies: written against the Gnostics; contributed to the knowledge of Gnosticism

Tertullian
Personal: Converted to Christianity between 190 and 195
Became a presbyter of the Church (197)
Zealous champion of Christianity
Profoundly influences later Church fathers
Embraced and became a leader of the Montanists (207?) a sect later declared heretical
Place and dates: (Rome) 160?-220?
Writings: Apologeticus (c. 197): his most famous work; a defense of Christians against pagan charges, On the Claims of Heretics: argues that the Church alone has the authority to declare what is and is not orthodox Christianity, On Baptism
On Prayer: throws light on contemporary religious practices

Origen
Personal: A student of Clement
Ordained a presbyter
The most accomplished biblical scholar of the early Church
Father of the allegorical method of scripture interpretation
He developed the idea of Christ as Logos or Incarnate Word
Place and dates: (Alexandria) 185?-254?
Writings: Against Celsus: closely reasoned apologetic work refuting the arguments advanced by the Celsus, the first serious critic of Christianity

Cyprian, St.
Personal: Convert to Christianity c. 245
Bishop of Carthage, 248
One of the most authoritative Fathers of the Church
Involved in controversy over treatment of those who had left the Church, and those who were baptized by heretics: accepted the teaching of Rome.
Place and dates: (Carthage) 200-258

Athanasius, St.
Personal: Played a prominent role in the theological struggle in the Council of Nicea (325)
Opposed Arius (256-336) who maintained that the Son was of a different substance from that of the Father, and was merely a creature
Formulated the "homoousian doctrine" that the Son of God is the same essence of substance of the Father
Became bishop of Alexandria (328)
Place and dates: (Alexandria) 293-373
Writings: Discourses Against the Arians
History of the Arians, Apology Against the Arians, On the Decrees of the Nicene Synod

Cyril of Jerusalem
Personal: Bishop of Jerusalem in 351
Embarked in controversy over episcopal duties
Place and dates: (Jerusalem) 315?-387?
Writings: 23 Treatises: addressed to catechumens and newly baptized; some treatises are doctrinal and present the creed of the Church; some are concerned with ritual and present a detailed account of Baptism, Eucharist and chrism

Basil, St.
Personal: Brother of Gregory of Nyssa and a friend of Gregory of Nazianzus
Patriarch of Eastern monasticism
Wrote a rule of the monastic way of life
Founded the Basilian monks (360)
Bishop of Caesarea (370).
Place and dates: (Caesarea Mazaca) 329?-379
Writings: Against Eunomius: written against the Arian leader Eunomius
On the Holy Spirit: a doctrinal treatise

Gregory of Nazianzus, St.
Personal: Bishop of Sasima (371)
Took charge of the Nicene congregation of Constantinople where he delivered five discourses on the Trinity that earned him fame as "The Theologian"
Place and dates: (Nazianzus in Capadocia, now Turkey) 329?-389
Writings: Philokalia (Love of the Beautiful): an anthology of the writings of Origen