

“A Great Cloud of Witnesses”

A Historical Series of the Murals on the Walls of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church

Saints Cyril and Methodius

5th Century Constantinople

The brothers, Saints Cyril and Methodius, were born in Thessalonica, Greece, in 827 and 826, respectively. Their father was a nobleman, but they both renounced their status and became priests, living in a monastery. Soon, some local Slavic peoples requested a Christian teacher, so both left the monastery and instructed these people, learning their language and converting many. Later some other Slavic tribes in present-day Austria requested teachers who could instruct them and say the Mass in their native Slavic language. So Cyril and Methodius were sent to help.



To prepare for this mission, Cyril invented a written alphabet, and with the help of his brother translated the Gospels and the liturgical books into the Slavic language.

Some in the Church grew suspicious of these men teaching in the Slavic language so they were ordered to Rome. However, the pope gave his approval of the Slavic liturgy, and ordained both brothers bishops.

St. Cyril later became a monk, and died shortly afterwards in Rome in 869. However, St. Methodius returned to the Slavic peoples in middle and eastern Europe and was their bishop. With the help of other priests, he eventually translated the entire Bible into the Slavic language. He died in 885. The alphabet St. Cyril invented is still used by the Slavic peoples, including the Russians, and it is called the Cyrillic alphabet. These brothers are patron saints of Europe. **Their Feast day is February 14.**

Each month, this series will feature the murals painted on the walls of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church along with history and commentary. You can also find this series on our website at www.hcscchurch.org.
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