

“A Great Cloud of Witnesses”

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

Saint Gregory the Illuminator

First Century India

St. Gregory is the patron saint of Armenia, a country whose territory once encompassed parts of present day Turkey and Iran.

Born around 256 A.D. in present-day Turkey, St. Gregory was a Christian who was employed as a scribe by the King of Armenia. When the king found out that St. Gregory was a Christian, he had him imprisoned during his persecution of Christianity.



However, the king became insane, and St. Gregory was brought out of prison to cure him. This he did, and the king converted to Christianity and with him the whole royal court. This scene is depicted in the mural. The king then declared Christianity the national religion in 301 A.D., long before the Roman Empire did so, thus making Armenia the first Christian nation. After the King's conversion, St. Gregory was made a bishop, hence his depiction as one in the mural.

He preached throughout Armenia, spreading the Gospel and refuting paganism. He was the first leader of the Armenian Church after its establishment as the official religion, and he did much to build up the faith in Armenia, including building the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin, near Mount Ararat, which to this day is the seat of the supreme patriarch of the Armenian Church. St. Gregory was believed to have died peaceably in 326 AD. **His Feast day is September 30.**

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.
Historical commentary researched and prepared by Anthony Lickteig (Seminarian).