



“SO ALL BORE WITNESS TO HIM...” – LUKE 4:22

Who are the saints?

Saint (Hagios or Kodoos) = holy one

“For I am the Lord your God; you shall name yourselves holy and keep yourselves holy, because I am holy...” (Lev. 11:44)

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...” (Eph. 2:19)



Who are the saints?

"God's saints reigned over and mastered their passions and kept uninjured the likeness unto the image of God, according to which they were created; they of their own free will united themselves with God and received Him into the habitation of their heart, and having thus received Him in communion, through grace, they became in their very nature like unto Him." – St. John of Damascus

Who are the saints?

The saints we honor and venerate have departed

“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. **Consider the outcome of their way of life** and imitate their faith.”
(Heb. 13:7 NIV)

“...But he who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matt. 10:22)



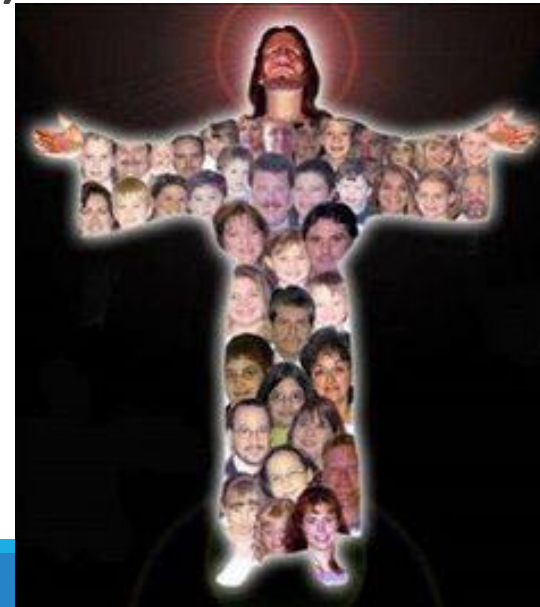
How do the saints relate to us?

Are they dead or alive?

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” (Jn. 11:25-26)

The Orthodox understanding of the Church helps us understand this relationship

- United to one another in the Lord Christ
- The Church will always remain complete and incorruptible despite being scattered, persecuted, or resisted.



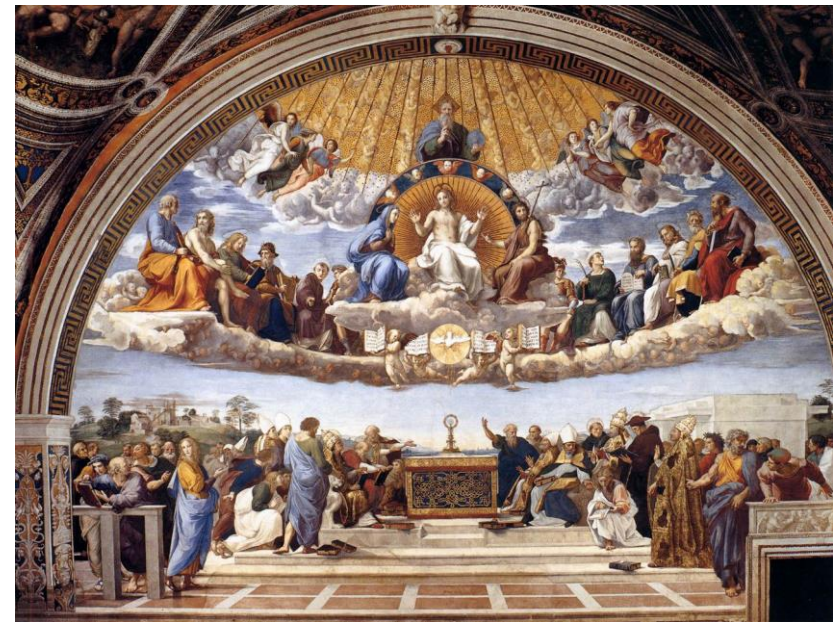
How do the saints relate to us?

The Church is above the natural world

- *“Believers of all ages and all generations, who are alive now, who lived, and who will be born, belong to it in the same way.”* (Fr. George Florovsky)

The Lord Christ reigns equally in the Church among the departed and the living

- “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” (Matt. 22:32)



The Saints are alive and highly favored

God extends His mercy to people on behalf of His saints

- “Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David...” (1 Kings 11:12)

God associates Himself with His saints

- “I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” (Exo. 3:6)

God honored the relics of saints

- Elisha’s bones raised a person from death (2 Kings 13:21)



The saints are concerned about us

“I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” (Luke 15:7)

Ex: The Rich Man and Lazarus



Why do we honor the saints?

1. Because God honors them
2. Gratitude for delivering to us this most precious faith
3. Recall their manner of life to emulate them