BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Anthony II Kauleas

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: February 12

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IN BRIEF

Saint Anthony II Kauleas

Byzantine monk, patriarch of Constantinople from 893 to 901, who brought about the reconciliation of the Church.

Feast day	February 12
Born	mid-9th century, near Constantinople
Died	February 901 (the 1st or the 12th according to the sources), Constantinople
Canonized	immemorial cult
Era	10th century

In this booklet

Life

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Novena to Saint Anthony Kauleas

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Anthony II Kauleas

Saint Anthony II Kauleas (or Cauleas) was a Byzantine monk who became patriarch of Constantinople from 893 until his death in 901. A man of peace, he succeeded in reconciling the Church of Constantinople, divided for decades between the supporters of the patriarchs Ignatius and Photius. He is honored as a saint by the Catholic Church and by the Orthodox Churches, and his feast day is February 12.

Who was Saint Anthony Kauleas?

Anthony lived at the end of the 9th century, under Emperor Leo VI the Wise. The Byzantine Church was then emerging from the iconoclast crisis, but it remained torn by a conflict that began in 858, when Patriarch Ignatius was deposed and replaced by Photius. For more than forty years, the faithful of the two parties stood against each other. Anthony is the patriarch who put an end to this division. His life is known through a *Life* written shortly after his death by Nicephorus, called the Rhetor or the Philosopher, and through a eulogy composed in the 14th century by Nicephorus Gregoras. These texts follow the conventions of Byzantine hagiography, and many details of his youth remain uncertain.

Key dates in the life of Anthony Kauleas

- **Mid-9th century**: Born near Constantinople, into a devout family from Thrace or Phrygia.
- **Around the age of twelve**: After his mother's death, he enters a monastery in Constantinople.
- **Following years**: He is ordained a priest, by Patriarch Methodius or by Patriarch Ignatius according to the sources, then becomes hegumen of his

monastery.

- **August 3, 893**: He becomes patriarch of Constantinople, after the death of Patriarch Stephen.
- **c. 898**: He refuses to celebrate the marriage of Emperor Leo VI to Zoe Zaoutzaina, judged too hasty.
- **899**: A synod held under his presidency ends the division between the supporters of Ignatius and of Photius.
- **February 901**: Dies in Constantinople; he is buried in the monastery that bears his name.
- **Shortly after his death**: Nicephorus the Rhetor writes his *Life*.

A monk of Constantinople

His parents, fervent Christians, came from Thrace or Phrygia, but Anthony is said to have been born not far from the capital. The hagiographical accounts give him a childhood turned toward God: a solitary boy, drawn to prayer, whose first words are said to have been praise. These are traits found in many lives of Byzantine saints, and they should be read as a spiritual portrait rather than as a precise memory. What is more certain is that he entered a monastery in Constantinople very young, studied the Scriptures and the spiritual life there, was ordained a priest and became hegumen, that is, superior of his community. Close to the Studite monks, he belonged to the monastic world that had defended the icons and the freedom of the Church.

A patriarch of reconciliation

When Patriarch Stephen, the emperor's brother, died, Anthony was chosen to succeed him on August 3, 893, with the support of the powerful minister Stylianos Zaoutzes. He was known for his works of charity toward the poor. That political support did not make him a courtier: when Emperor Leo VI wished to marry Zoe, Stylianos's daughter, shortly after the death of her first

husband and of the emperor's first wife, Anthony refused to bless the union himself. Later, he granted the emperor, widowed once more, a dispensation for a third marriage, which shows that he sought to reconcile the rule of the Church with mercy.

His great work was the peace of the Church. Since the deposition of Ignatius in 858 and the elevation of Photius, the Christian community of Constantinople had remained split between two loyalties, and many bishops refused communion with one another. In 899, Anthony convened a synod that ended the quarrel without condemning anyone. In particular, he won over Stylianos, bishop of Neocaesarea, the leader of Ignatius's supporters. Historians stress that this reconciliation, carried out patiently and without a spirit of revenge, restored peace to the Byzantine Church.

Death and devotion

Anthony died in February 901; some sources give February 1, others February 12, the day of his feast. He was buried in the monastery that bears his name, the monastery of Kauleas, in Constantinople, of which nothing remains today. His successor was Nicholas Mystikos. He was very soon venerated as a saint: an 11th-century seal depicts him, a sign that his cult was alive in Constantinople. He is commemorated on February 12 in the Orthodox Churches, and the Catholic Church also honors him as a saint, since he lived before the separation between Rome and Constantinople.

What can we learn from Saint Anthony Kauleas?

Anthony Kauleas is a saint of unity. He did not try to prove one party right against the other, but to restore communion. He also knew how to keep his freedom before the power that had raised him to his office. He can be invoked for the unity of Christians, for divided communities, for families in conflict and for those who hold authority in the Church.

Where to pray to Saint Anthony Kauleas

- **In your parish**: on February 12, praying for the unity of Christians.
- **Istanbul**: the city of his ministry; his monastery and tomb have disappeared, and no known place of worship holds his relics today.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Anthony Kauleas for Unity

Saint Anthony II Kauleas, monk and then patriarch of Constantinople from 893 to 901, restored peace to a Church divided for more than forty years. Prayer composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It entrusts to him the unity of Christians, divided communities and all who seek reconciliation.

Prayer to Saint Anthony Kauleas

Saint Anthony,
monk of Constantinople and shepherd of the Church,
you found in the silence of the monastery
the strength to serve the people of God.
Teach me to draw from prayer
the peace I must bring to others.

You brought together brothers who no longer spoke,
without humiliating anyone,
and you gave communion back to the Church.
Come to the aid of divided communities,
of torn families,
and of all Christians who seek unity.

You who kept your freedom before the powerful,
obtain for the shepherds of the Church
the courage of truth and the gentleness of mercy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When to pray to Saint Anthony Kauleas

- On his feast day, February 12.
- During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, in January.
- When a community, a parish or a family is divided.
- For bishops and leaders of the Church.
- Before a difficult step toward reconciliation.

A short invocation

> *Saint Anthony Kauleas, peacemaker,*
> *pray for the unity of the Church and for the peace of our hearts. Amen.*

To prepare for his feast, you can pray the novena to Saint Anthony Kauleas from February 4 to 12, and read the life of Saint Anthony Kauleas.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Anthony Kauleas

This novena offers nine days with Saint Anthony II Kauleas, patriarch of Constantinople from 893 to 901, who brought about the reconciliation of the Byzantine Church. Novena composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. To finish it on his feast day, February 12, begin on February 4. It also suits any intention of peace and unity.

How to pray this novena

Each day, make the Sign of the Cross and entrust your intention to God. Read the meditation, say the prayer of the day, then an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. End with: "Saint Anthony Kauleas, pray for us." The act of the day helps you live the novena concretely. The episodes of his youth come from his Byzantine *Life*, which mixes memories and hagiographical conventions.

Day 1: A believing family

Anthony was born into a devout family from Thrace or Phrygia. His parents' faith was the first soil of his vocation.

Prayer: Lord, bless parents who hand on the faith, and make the desire to know you grow in our children.

Act of the day: Thank God for someone who taught you to pray.

Day 2: Orphaned and welcomed

When his mother died, the boy entered a monastery. The community of monks became his family.

Prayer: Lord, comfort children who have lost their parents, and give them homes where they are loved.

Act of the day: Support with prayer or a gift a work that welcomes children.

Day 3: The school of the monastery

In the monastery, Anthony learned the Scriptures, prayer and obedience. There he was formed to serve.

Prayer: Lord, make your Word the food of every day of my life.

Act of the day: Read a passage of the Gospel slowly.

Day 4: Superior of the brothers

As hegumen, Anthony was given charge of a community. Governing brothers demands patience and listening.

Prayer: Lord, bless the superiors of religious communities and all who have authority over others.

Act of the day: Listen to someone to the end, without interrupting.

Day 5: Shepherd of the great Church

In 893, the monk became patriarch of Constantinople. He was known for his charity toward the poor.

Prayer: Lord, give your Church shepherds after your own heart, close to the poor.

Act of the day: Pray for the Pope and for your bishop, and do something for a poor person.

Day 6: Free before the powerful

Anthony refused to bless himself an imperial marriage celebrated too soon. He owed his office to powerful men, but he did not belong to them.

Prayer: Lord, give me the courage to speak the truth with respect, even when it costs me.

Act of the day: Refuse a small compromise today.

Day 7: The rule and mercy

Later, he granted the emperor a dispensation for a new marriage. He sought to join faithfulness to the rule with compassion for persons.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to join truth and mercy, as you do with me.

Act of the day: Forgive an offense, even a small one.

Day 8: Gathering the divided

In 899, Anthony convened a synod that ended more than forty years of division, without condemning anyone. The peace of the Church mattered more to him than the victory of one side.

Prayer: Lord, gather your Church in unity, and make me a peacemaker.

Act of the day: Take a first step toward someone with whom you are on bad terms.

Day 9: Entering into peace

Anthony died in 901, after giving peace back to his Church. He was immediately venerated as a saint by the people of Constantinople.

Prayer: Lord, grant me to end my life in your peace. Through the intercession of Saint Anthony Kauleas, grant me the grace I ask of you in this novena, if it is your will.

Act of the day: Attend Mass if you can and pray for the unity of Christians.

Closing prayer

Saint Anthony Kauleas,
humble monk and shepherd of peace,
present to the Lord the intention I have entrusted to you.
Obtain unity for the Church,
reconciliation for our families,
and the peace of Christ for my heart.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

You can also pray the prayer to Saint Anthony Kauleas at any time, and read the life of Saint Anthony Kauleas.

Credits and sources

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