



**Saints Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavic Lands  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on May 11.**

Born in Thessalonica, *Saint Methodius* was a military man before becoming a monk on Mount Olympus. His brother, Constantine, known as the Philosopher because of his erudition, was Librarian of the Church of the Holy Wisdom in Constantinople; later he became a monk with the name of *Cyril*. The Emperor Michael sent him with his brother Methodius to the Khazars in response to their petition for teachers to expound to them the Christian Faith. On their way, they stayed in Cherson, where they recovered from the Black Sea relics of Saint Clement of Rome. Later, they were called by Prince Rostislav of Moravia to instruct his people in the Orthodox Faith (Saint Rostislav died a martyr's death and is celebrated Oct. 15). The Saints devised an alphabet for the Slavs, and used it to translate the Greek books into the language of the people. In their apostolic labors throughout the Balkans, the holy brothers were slandered by certain Germanic bishops who opposed the use of the vernacular in the church services. Summoned to Rome in 867, they presented their Slavonic translations to Pope Adrian II, who received them with love and full approval. Two years later, Saint

Cyril reposed in Rome on February 14 and was buried in the Church of Saint Clement. Saint Methodius was made Bishop of Moravia, but at the intrigues of certain Latin Clergy, was cast into prison by the “Holy Roman Emperor”(the Germanic Emperor of the West), where he was cruelly tormented for some three years. In 874, through the defense of Pope John VIII, he was freed and made Archbishop of Moravia. Because he reproved the lax morals of the German priests in Moravia, he was soon accused of heresy by them, and was forbidden to celebrate the Liturgy in Slavonic. Summoned to Rome again in 879, he was completely exonerated and allowed once again to use the Slavonic tongue for the divine services. He reposed on April 6, 885.

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Ss. Cyril and Methodius  
with Ss. Clement Ohridski, Naoum  
Angelarius, Gorazel, and Sava

*Dismissal Hymn of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Fourth Tone*

**S**INCE ye were equal in character to the Apostles, and teachers of the Slavic Lands, O divinely-wise Cyril and Methodius, pray to the Lord of all the strengthen all nations in Orthodoxy and unity of thought, to convert and reconcile all the world to God, and to save our souls.

*Kontakion of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Third Tone*

**L**ET us honour our sacred pair of enlighteners, who, by translating the divine writings, have poured forth for us a well-spring of divine knowledge from which we draw abundantly even to this day: We call you blessed, O Cyril and Methodius, ye that stand before the throne of the Most High and intercede fervently for our souls.



**SAINT NAOUM  
SAVE US.**