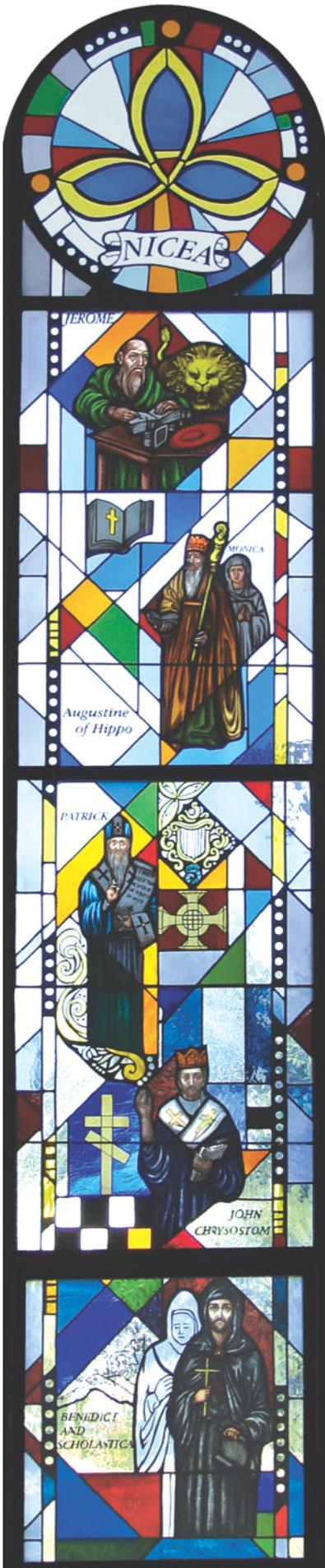


# THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF THE CHURCH



**The Medallion** shows a three-leafed plant symbolizing the Holy Trinity. The definition of God as a trinity of persons and the proclamation of a creed, termed the Nicene creed, were the chief doctrinal achievements at the council of Nicea in 325 A.D. This window depicts the “patristic” period of the Church: from the death of the last apostle to the end of the Roman Empire.

**St. Jerome** (~342-420) (September 30) translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin. He finalized the selection of what books were in the Bible. He was an early cardinal (deacon of Rome), so he is shown with a red hat. It is said he struggled with sins of purity, as one struggles with a lion.

**St. Augustine of Hippo** (354-430) (August 28) is the greatest writer of the early Church. His “Confessions” are a spiritual classic. His understanding of the City of God and City of Man has defined church and state relations. He converted at the age of 32 or 33. His mother, **St. Monica**, prayed for that conversion for years and is depicted behind him, praying. Augustine became bishop of Hippo (modern Libya).

**St. Patrick** (390-461) (March 17), missionary to the Irish, was born a Roman citizen in Britain. He was captured at the age of 16 by Irish raiders and held as a slave for six years in what is today Antrim and Mayo. He escaped to France and was ordained a priest and bishop. He returned to Ireland, and without bloodshed, converted the Irish. He introduced Latin and private confession to Ireland. The former slave also ended slavery.

**St. John Chrysostom** (~307-407) (September 13) was Archbishop of Constantinople and chaplain to the Byzantine emperor. He is a father of the Church in the East and the West, and was known as a great preacher, sometimes called the “Golden Mouth”. He defended the doctrine of the trinity and the nature of Jesus as true God and Man.

**St. Benedict** (480-550) (March 21) was the founder of monasticism in the Western Church. The Benedictines and many other religious orders still follow his rule of monastic life. **St. Scholastica** was his sister, possibly his twin. They were raised at the end of the Roman Empire, as classical civilization was collapsing. Their monastic pattern of life preserved Western civilization and the Church through the scholarship of the monks by preserving the ancient texts and the scriptures. The mountain behind them in the window is Monte Cassino, the main foundation of the Benedictines. Scholastica is shown as “ghostly” in the window--legend has it that Benedict saw her soul on its way to heaven.