

Church History

Timeline By Century

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12th Century

Gothic architecture, with its pointed arches and high, vaulted ceilings prevails in church building.

- 1182--Notre Dame Cathedral consecrated
- 1194--Chartres Cathedral begun
- The medieval papacy, at the height of its power and influence, continues to encourage crusades to liberate the Holy Land from the Moslems.
- 1104--Acre taken by the Crusaders, fell to Moslems again in 1191
- 1147--Second Crusade (supported by Bernard of Clairvaux) fails, with most Crusaders dying in Asia Minor.
- 1187--Loss of Jerusalem by the Crusaders
- 1190--German Hospitalers founded (later becoming the Teutonic Order)
- Belief in immaculate conception of Mary spreads.

- 1170--Pope Alexander III established rules for the canonization of saints, the same year Thomas Becket is murdered in England. Becket is canonized in 1173.
- 1173--Waldensian movement begins in Lyons, seeking truth in Bible rather than medieval tradition. The church persecutes these devout believers sometimes seen as predecessors of Protestant reform.
- Monasticism continues to be main source of reforming church.
- 1115--St. Bernard establishes monastery at Clairvaux. He will become the "greatest churchman of the 12th century."
- 1155--Carmelite Order founded