

Fall of Rome – Rise of Byzantium


- ✘ 3rd c. AD - Roman Empire declines
- ✘ Many sources diminish Roman power:
 - ◆ Too large
 - ◆ Huge militia, expensive to maintain
 - ◆ Discontent, treason
 - ◆ Barbarian invasions
 - ◆ Christianity rising

Rome Splits

- ✘ Because the empire is too large, it is split in 284 A.D. to make governing easier
 - ◆ New Rome is in the East
 - ◆ Old Rome is in the West
 - ◆ Each has two rulers
- ✘ The 4 co-rulers: called the
 - ◆ “Tetrarchs”



Empire Divided

- ✘ Permanent split develops in:
 - ◆ *Politics & religion*
- ✘ The East prospers 
 - ◆ It came to be known as the Byzantine Empire or Byzantium (Istanbul today)
 - ◆ It is a great port of trade and commerce
- ✘ The West declines 
 - ◆ “Old Rome”
 - Barbarian invasions, chaos, disintegration

Click here to find out more about the [Byzantine Empire](#)

Roman Emperor Constantine

- ✦ Ruled 306 – 337 AD
- ✦ 312 AD - defeats co-ruler
 - ◆ Becomes Christian
- ✦ 313 AD - Edict of Milan
 - ◆ New law ends Christian persecution
 - ◆ allows religious freedom
- ✦ 324 AD - Constantine reunites east and west into one empire



Colossal statue of Constantine

Head = 8 ½' high x 6' wide; 8 tons

Eastern Empire

- ✦ Byzantium 330 - 1453 AD
- ✦ Seaport
 - ◆ East & West meet here
 - ◆ Crossroads for trade
 - ◆ Great prosperity
 - ◆ Luxury
- ✦ Cultural exchange
 - ◆ Exotic
 - ◆ Theatrical imperial court



Click here to learn what it would be like to visit the spectacular court of an imperial [Byzantine Emperor](#).

Byzantium 867 AD

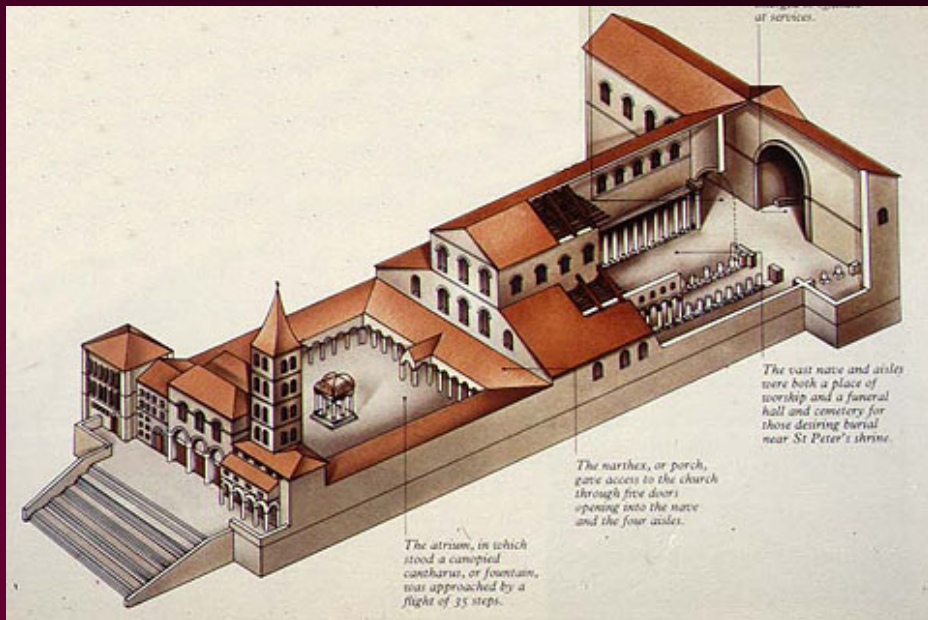


Constantine Builds Churches

✦ In the West:

◆ “Early Christian” architecture

- e.g. Basilica of St. Peter - “Old Saint Peter’s” 319-329
- Near Rome – but not the St. Peter’s that is at the Vatican today



Constantine Builds Churches

- ✘ In the East:
- ✘ “Byzantine” architecture
 - ◆ “Domed cross”
 - e.g. Santa Costanza, Rome c. 350



San Lorenzo

4th century - Milan



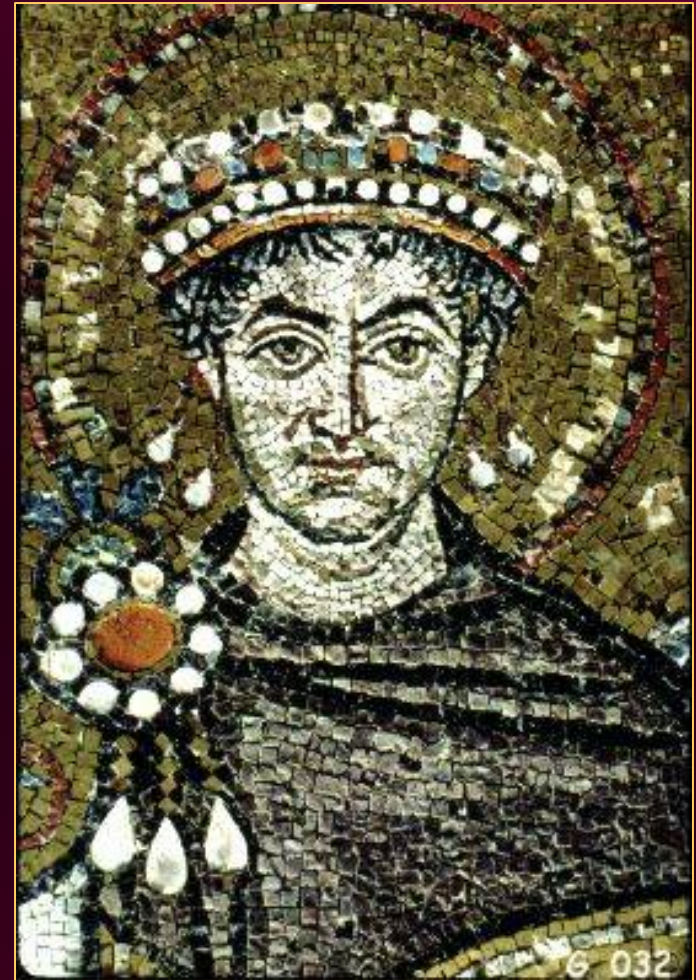
Emperor Justinian

✦ Emperor in 527

- ◆ imperial expansion
- ◆ Byzantine cultural peak

Builds churches

- ◆ San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy
 - Famous mosaics
- ◆ Haghia Sophia (Holy Wisdom)
 - Burned in 532 and rebuilt



Empress Theodora



Theodora mosaik ravenna.jpg

- ✠ “Domed Cross” plan
 - ◆ Octagonal core



www.lanecce.edu/artad/ArtHistoryProgram/12-6-9.htm m

San Vitale

ca 532/3 - 548



www.contracosta.cc.ca.us/Art/Images/Byzantine

APSE S. Vitale, Ravenna, Italy 532/3-548



In the center of the apse against a gold background, Christ in imperial dress sits on a globe. Archangels on his right and left present St. Vitalis and Bishop Ecclesius, under whom the church was begun.

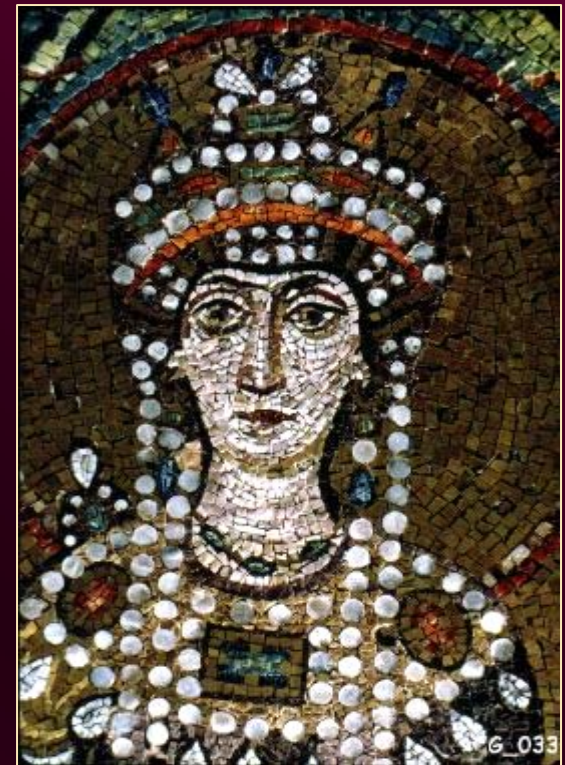
The Polykandelon



- ♦ A wrought metal candle holder (polykandelon) with places for several candles was used to light the churches.

Rebuilding the Haghia Sophia

- ✘ Public unrest with taxes leads to a riot, fire in 532
 - ◆ Empress Theodora, convinces Justinian to stay
- ✘ Justinian rebuilds (532 - 565)
 - ◆ New Haghia Sophia awe inspiring
 - ◆ *Most splendid for a millenium*
 - ◆ *New technology*



Empress Theodora

Haghia Sophia Church



532 – 537 AD

Anthemios of Tralles and Isidorus of Miletus, theoretical men with no architectural training, designed the church.

Haghia Sophia Dome

- ✠ Dome over square = symbol of heaven over earth
- ✠ Dome allows open interior space
- ✠ Light flows in through 40 windows – for the 40 days and nights that Christ spent in the desert



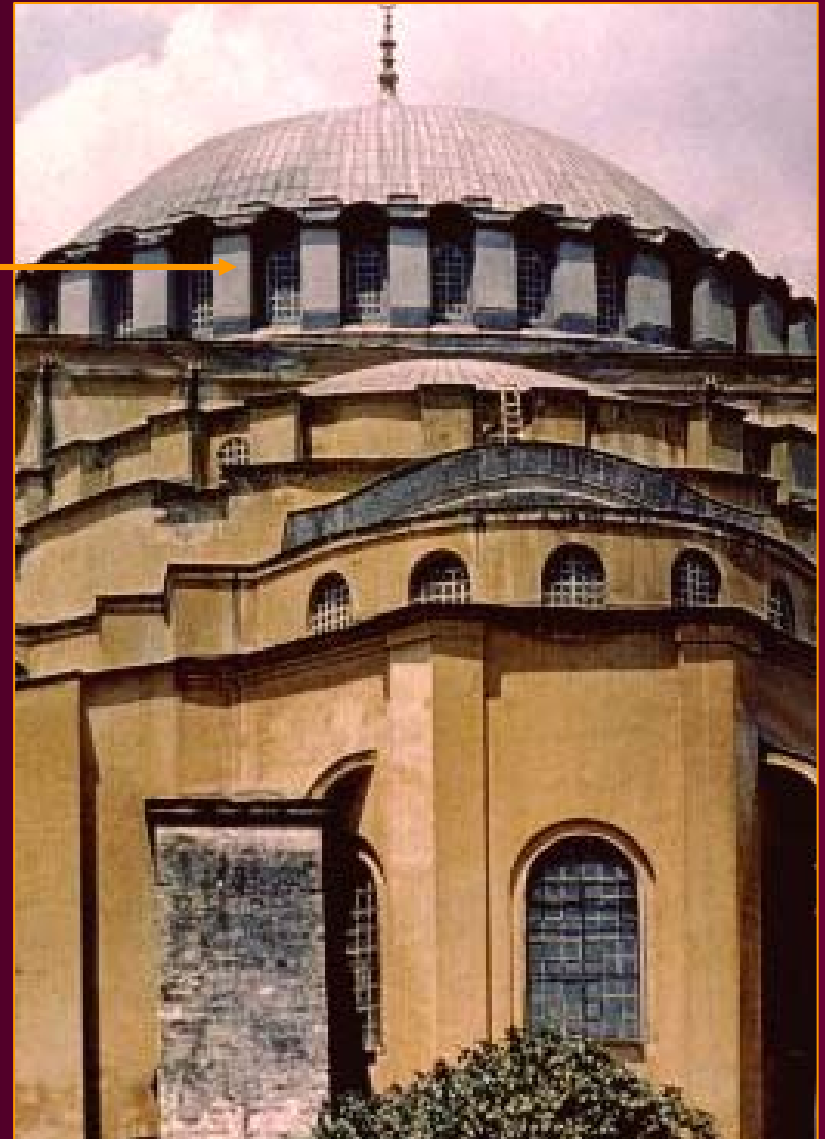
Haghia Sophia Dome



- Dome is 107 feet in diameter
- Turkish decoration covers original surface

Haghia Sophia Dome

<http://w4u.eexi.gr/~ippotis/sumagiasen.html>



- ✠ Columns support the dome
 - ◆ Space between can be pierced with windows
 - ◆ Shafts of LIGHT pour in

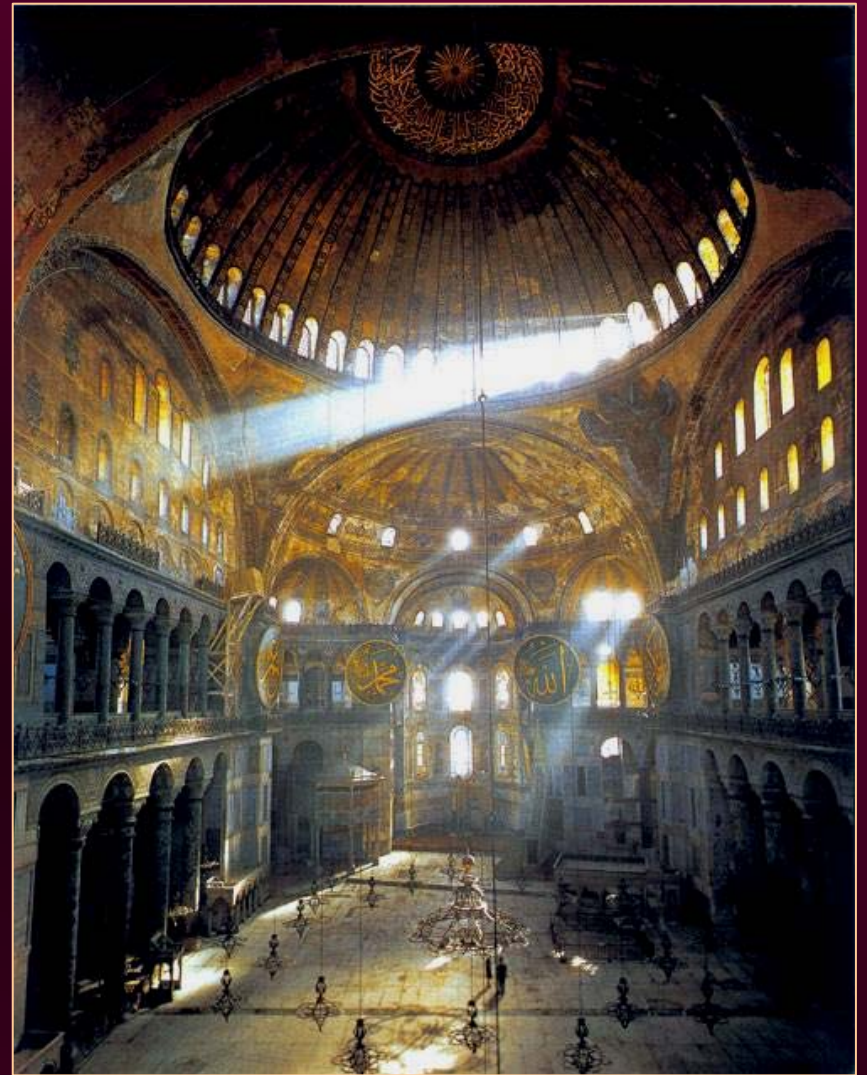
Today - Haghia Sophia Mosque

4 minarets added after the
Muslim conquest in 1453



- ✦ Architecture is revolutionary
 - ◆ Influenced design for 1,000 years
 - ◆ Huge volume of space
- ✦ Filled with light
- ✦ Space and light are the key elements

Interior size = 230' x 250'
4 arches stand for the 4 directions of world
3 windows in the apse represent the Trinity

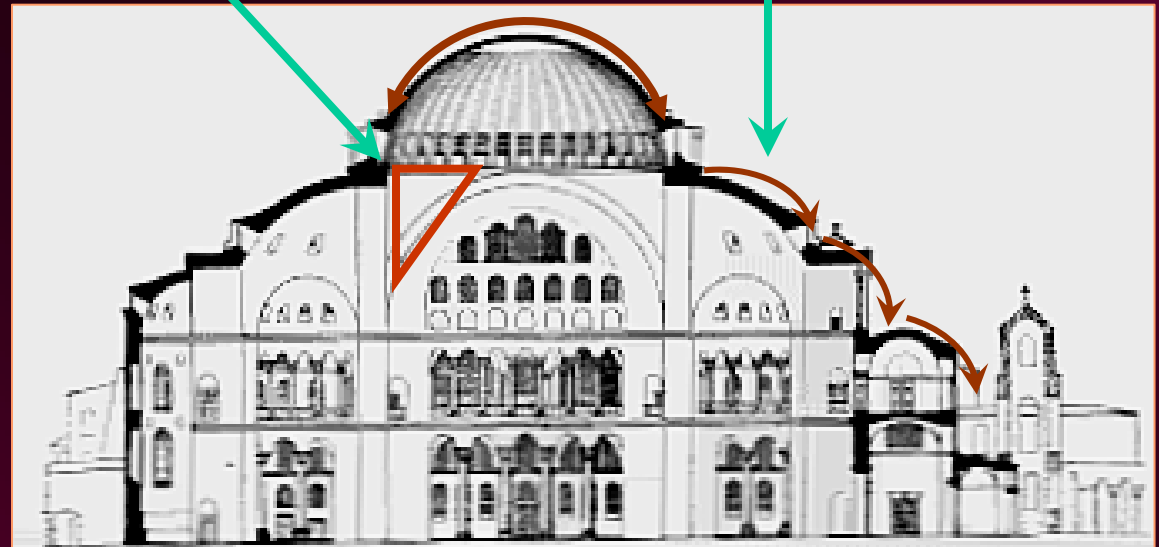


Hagia Sophia Interior

➤ Dome weight supported by:

- Interior *pendentives*: carry downward pressure

- Exterior buttresses: carry sideways (lateral) pressure



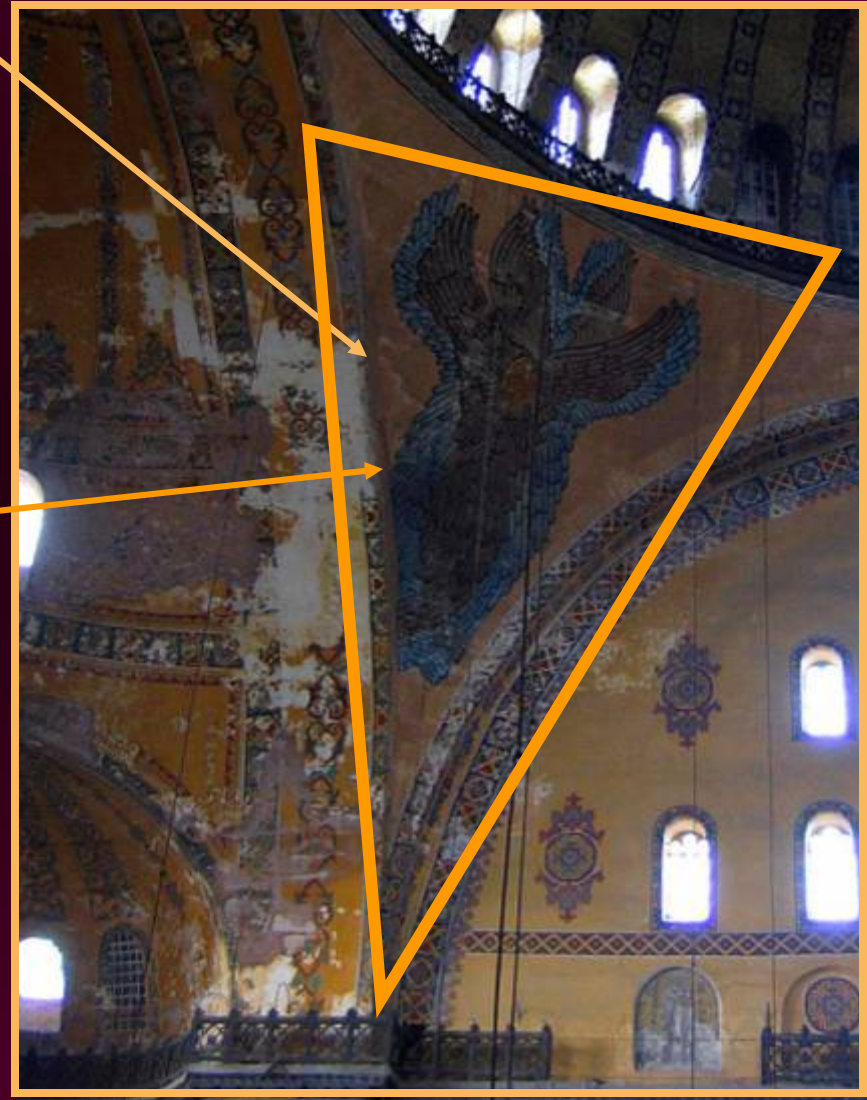
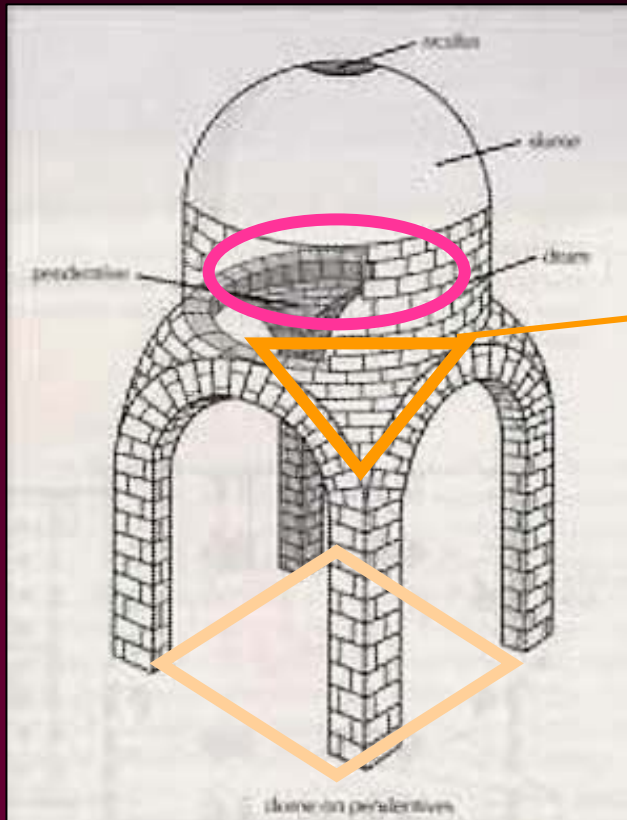
66 Santa Sophia, Istanbul. Section after A. M. Schneider

Cross Section View

The Pendentive

Curved triangular support

- allows a round dome
- to rest on a square base





Hagia Sophia Interior

Pendentive

Haghia Sophia Interior

- ✠ Pendentives carry the weight of the dome
 - ◆ This allows walls to be pierced with windows



Presbyterium Wall

Haghia Sophia Mosaics

Every inch of wall is covered with beautiful mosaics – scenes from the bible or life of Christ.



Mosaics

When Muslims take over the church they plaster over the mosaics as they fear idolatry. Some of the plaster has been removed in areas open to tourists.



Mosaics

✦ Cover church walls



Byzantine Column Capitals

- ✦ Pierced carving
 - ◆ Looks like lace
 - ◆ Islamic influence

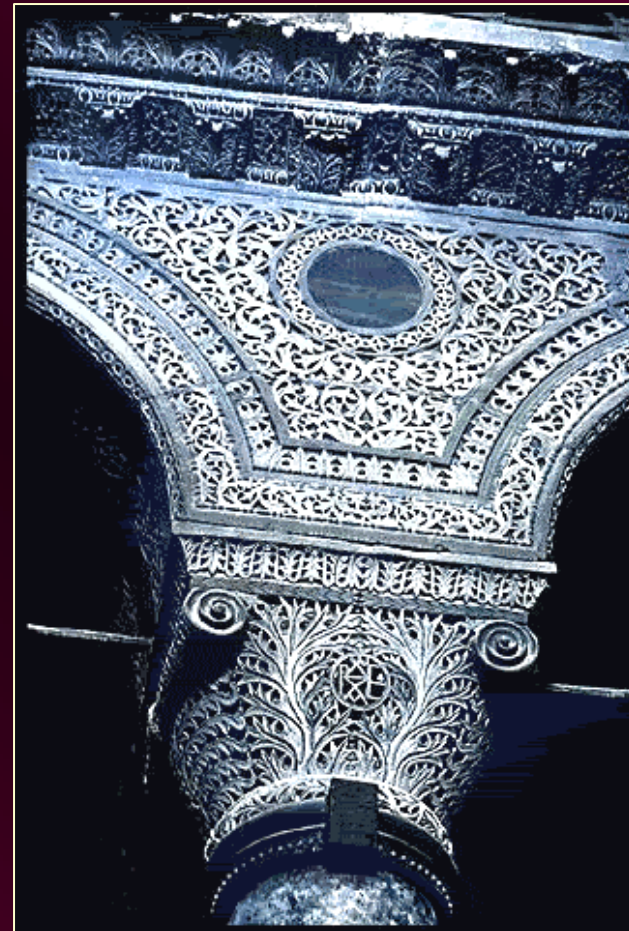
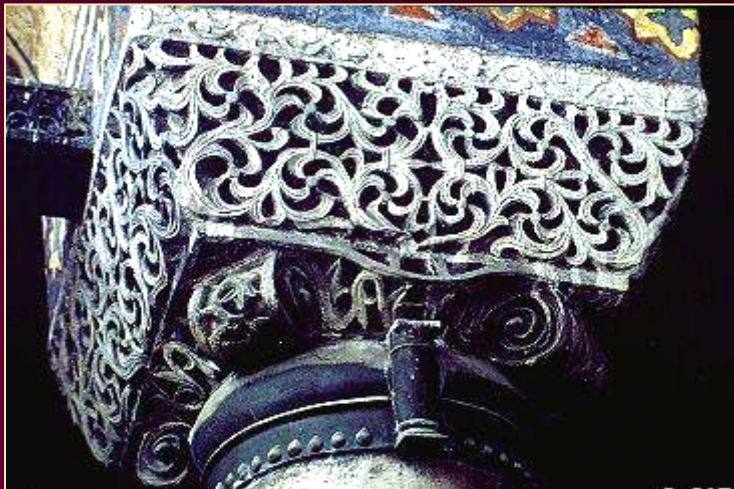


Byzantine capital - 1889 drawing



[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_\(architecture\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_(architecture))

Column Capitals



Byzantine Capitals

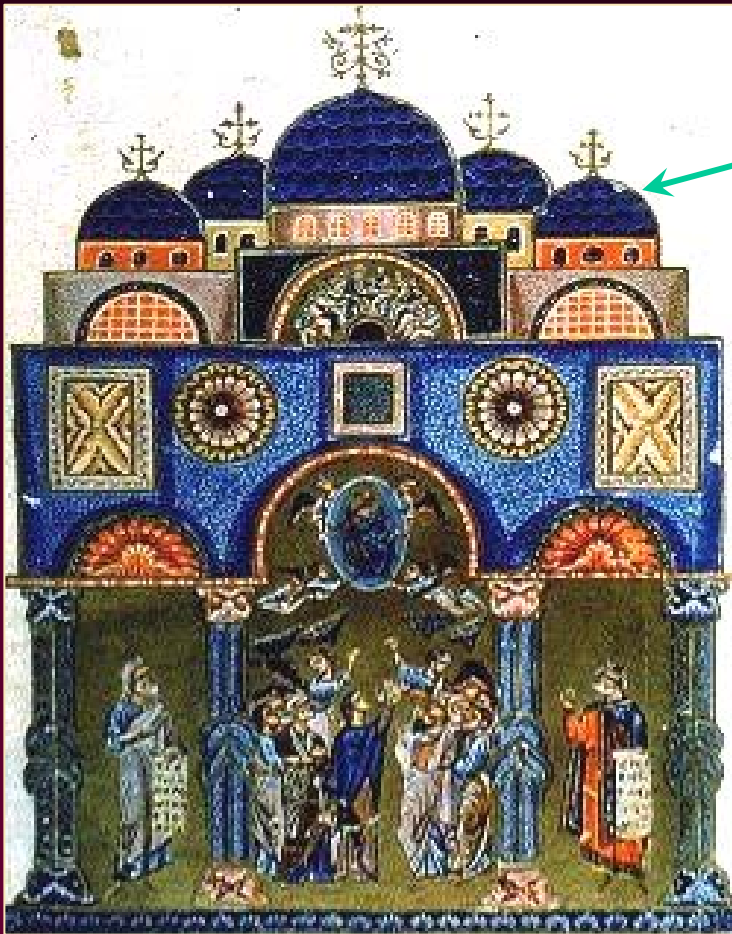


Byzantine Capital

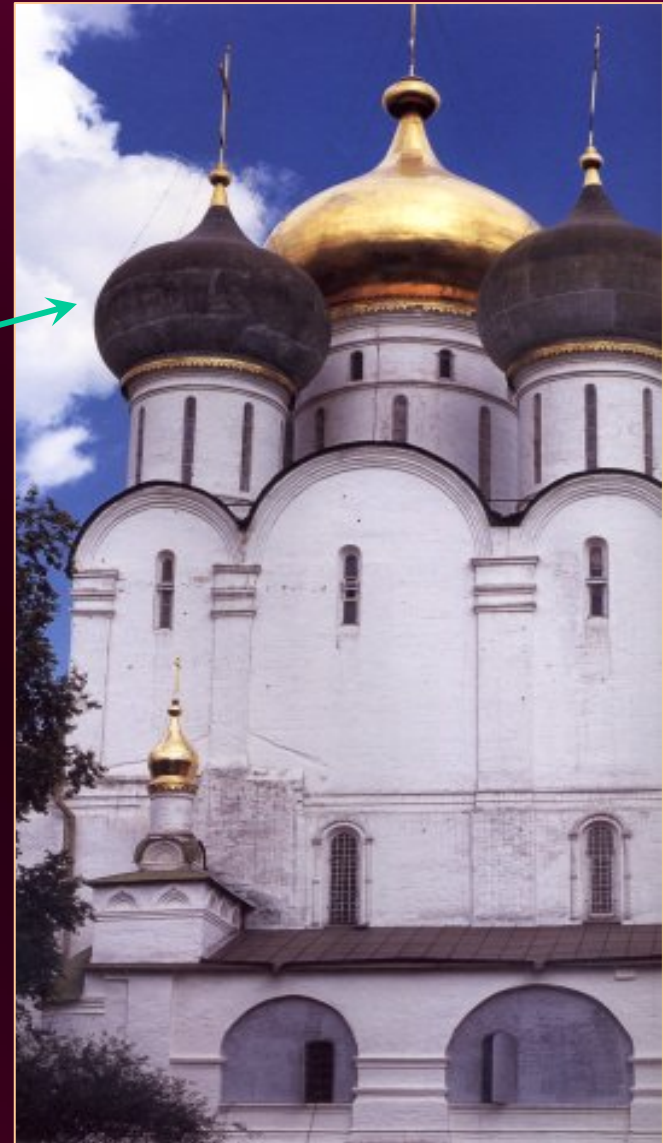
<http://www.castle-vianden.lu/english/visit/index.html>

Byzantine Influence

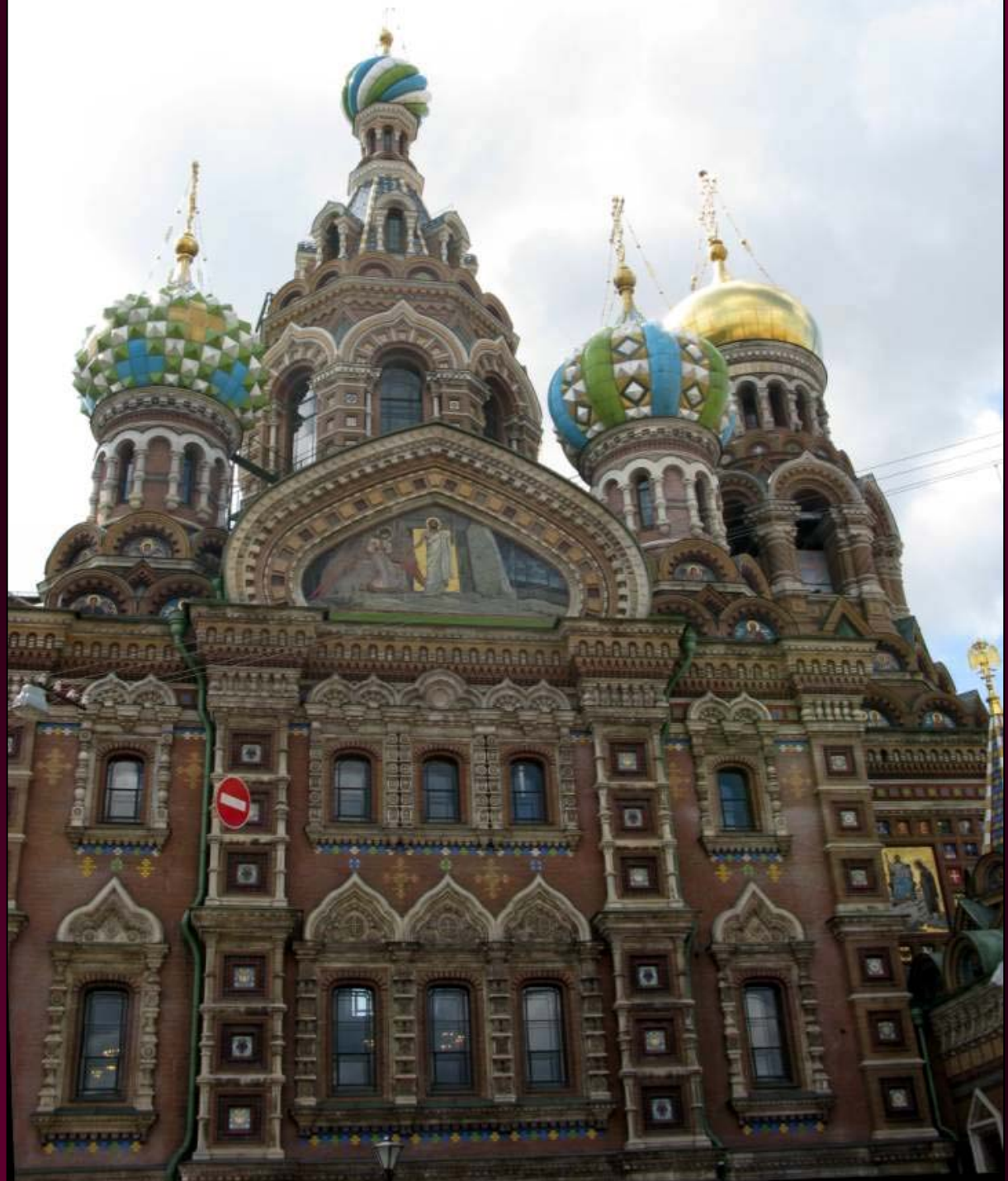
- ✦ **The Russian Onion Dome comes from Byzantine influence**



Smolensk



The Church of
Spilled Blood-
St. Petersburg,
Russia



Byzantine Thrones



www.SlidePresentationsPublishers.com



Ac.byzantine1.jpg

Byzantine Thrones



www.biblenews.org/images/Ivory_throne.jpg

Carved ivory throne of
Archbishop Maximilian c.547



www.SlidePresentationsPublishers.com

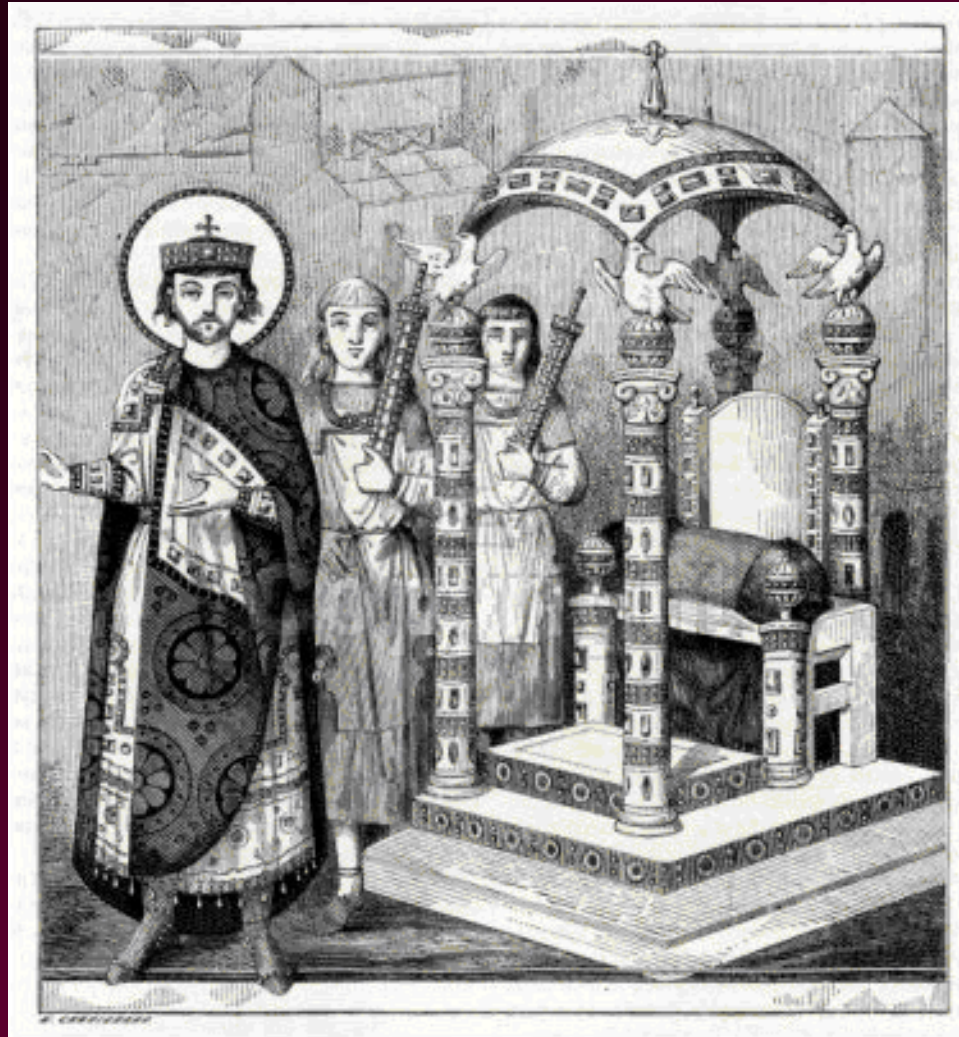
Byzantine Throne

Carved in the early 6th century, it is the only chair to survive nearly intact from the Early Christian and Byzantine periods. The wooden frame is covered with finely carved ivory panels depicting the life of Christ and Joseph. It is surrounded by ornamental borders. In the center under the seat is the bishop's monogram. The chair was a gift from Justinian.



Panel showing Joseph with his brothers -
note footstool

Byzantine Throne



Jeweled throne for the Book of Laws



This royal throne holds the open Book of the Evangelists. Nearby the emperor and church elders meet in council.

Wicker Barrel Chair, writing desk and footstool



St. Luke the Evangelist, Mid-10th c

Byzantine Couch



Christ & the apostles are reclining to dine in the ancient custom. This mosaic from Saint Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna (532-549) depicts the Last Supper.

Jeweled Byzantine Bed with Cushions



The emperor reclines in a low box-type bed. Side panels and uprights are decorated with jewels; short legs are molded. The thick mattress is probably supported with cords. On top is a large pillow.

Contemporary “Byzantine” Furnishings

This lavish furniture in a designer showroom reflects the influence from the Byzantine era.

Inlay is ivory and mother of pearl



Contemporary Byzantine Influence

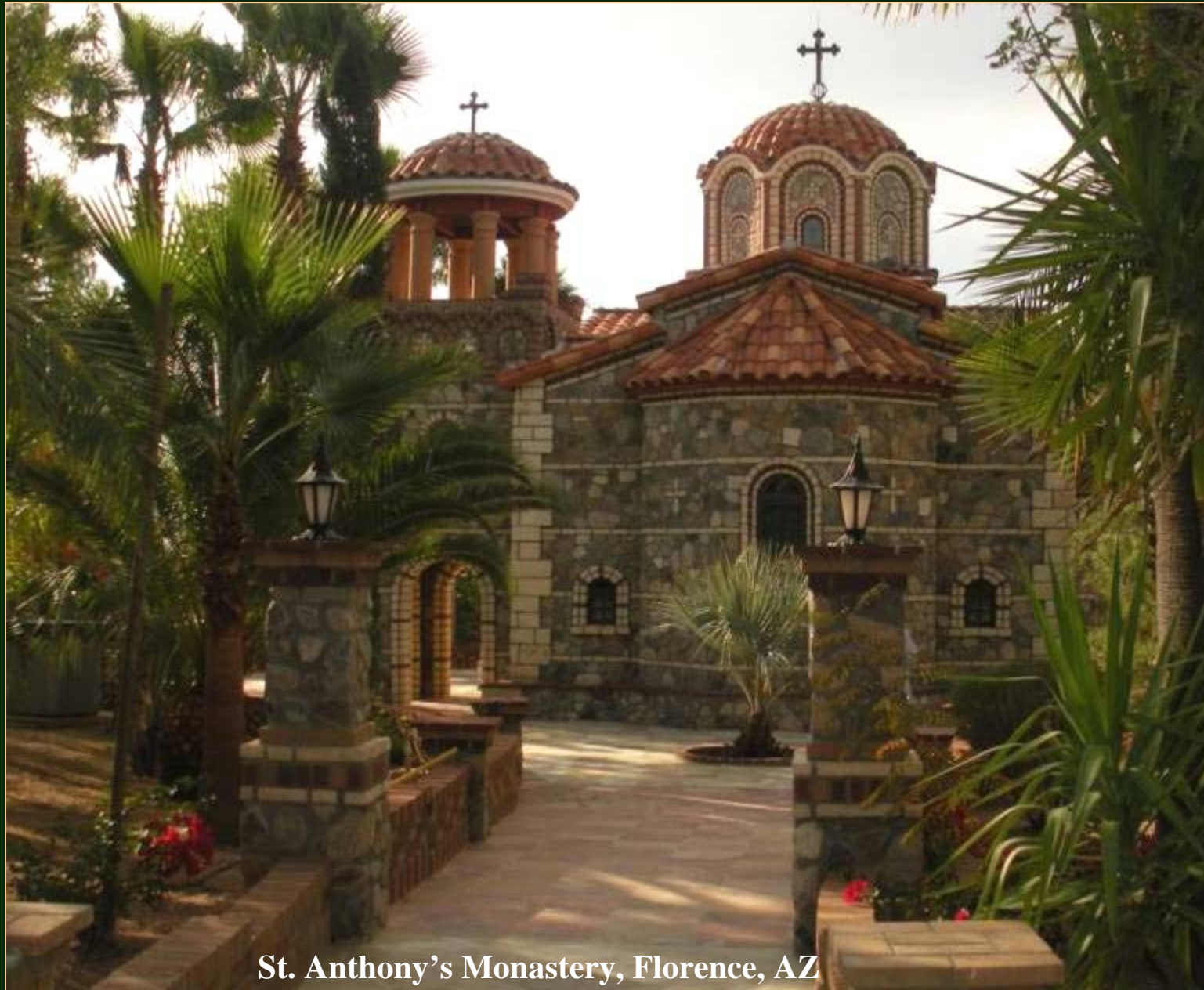


Local Byzantine Architecture



St. Thomas the Apostle, Gilbert, AZ

Local Byzantine Architecture



St. Anthony's Monastery, Florence, AZ

St. Anthony's Monastery

St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery is a monastic community for men in Florence, Arizona. It was founded in 1995 by six Athonite monks along with Elder Ephraim, and has grown to approximately 42 monks. The monastery also provides training for other Greek Orthodox monasteries in America.

Monks at St. Anthony's Monastery pursue the monastic tradition of a Christ-centered life of prayer.

Both men and women are welcome to visit as pilgrims.

If you are interested in visiting, you can get more information at:
<http://www.stanthonysmonastery.org/visitorpilgrimguide.php>

Directions are at this website:
<http://www.stanthonysmonastery.org/visitordirections.php>

<http://www.stanthonysmonastery.org/>













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