



# CHRISTMAS

## St. Basil the Great

*329-379*

### Memorial—January 2



Born in Caesarea, capital of Cappadocia (central Turkey), Basil studied rhetoric there and in Constantinople and Athens. He was baptized with his friend, St. Gregory Nazianzen, about 358 and ordained around 365. After being chosen bishop of Caesarea in 370, he championed the faith defined at the Council of Nicaea and refuted the Arian heresy. Many of his homilies and treatises are extant, and the monastic Rule of St. Basil is still observed in the Eastern Church. He is revered as a Doctor of the Church.

