

**Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ
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Рождество Иоанна Предтечи

Св. Иоанн родился в семье священника Захарии и прав. Елисаветы. Супруги не имели долгое время детей, “ибо Елисавет была неплодна, и оба были уже в летах преклонных”, а это считалось у евреев знаком немилости Божией (Втор. 28,18). Господь внял молитвам благочестивых супругов. Во время служения в Иерусалимском храме Захарии явился Архангела Гавриил и возвестил, что по милости Божией родится у Елисаветы сын, “и наречешь ему имя: Иоанн... он будет велик пред Господом; не будет путь вина и сикера, а Духа Святого исполнится от чрева матери своей” (Лк. 1,13,15). Захария усомнился, что в таком возрасте возможно иметь детей, и был поражен за неверие немотой.

На восьмой день после рождения сына Елисавета дала ему имя Иоанн. Все были удивлены – никто в их роде не носил такого имени. Когда спросили об этом Захарию, он попросил дощечку и написал на ней: “Иоанн ему имя... И тотчас разрешились уста его и язык его, и он стал говорить, благословляя Бога.” Исполнившись Святого Духа, Захария сказал пророчество о Мессии – Спасителе мира и об Иоанне – Его Предтече.

The Holy Church glorifies St John the Baptist as «the angel, the apostle, the martyr, the prophet, the friend of Christ, the seal of the prophets, the mediator of the old and new grace, and in birth most honorable, and the voice of the Word of light». In the words of the Blessed Augustine, «he surpasses all, he has the advantage before all.

Related to the Lord through his mother, the son of the priest Zechariah and Elisabeth, the Forerunner of the Lord preceded birth of the Lord by six months. The Angel Gabriel foretold his birth to his father Zechariah in the temple. And here to the god-fearing couple, who up to advanced old age was deprived of the consolation of having children, is born the son of consolation, who was petitioned by their prayers, the foreteller of higher things who was filled «with the All Holy Spirit while yet in the womb» whom «his mother carries inside and who leaps for joy rejoicing in the beautiful fruit of the virgin» was announced. Saved by God's mercy from the death that overtook thousands of children in

**Sunday, 7 July, 2024
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:30 AM
Confessions 8:45-9:15 AM
Nativity St John Baptist**

Bethlehem and its vicinity, St. John grew up in the wild and barren desert, preparing himself for great service by a strict way of life, by fasting, by prayers and the awesome reflection about the fate of the people of God. He remained as a desert dweller until that time when the Lord called him for the general preaching to the Judaic people. Obeying this calling, St. John, about 30 years old, appeared on the shores of the Jordan, and through his preaching prepared the people to accept the long awaited Savior, the Messiah. As expressed in the church hymns, St. John was the morning light, "the star", which by its brightness surpassed the light of all the other stars and foretold the dawn of the thankful day, when Christ shines as the spiritual "Sun" (*Mal. 4:2*).

Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God among all those sinners who came to him, St. John finished his service, and died as a martyr. As a preacher of penance, he strictly and fearlessly disclosed the vices of the people, and all honored and respected him as a prophet. When King Herod married Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. St. John accused the king "as the lawless one" and for this he was put in prison and then beheaded by the sword at the request of Herodias.

