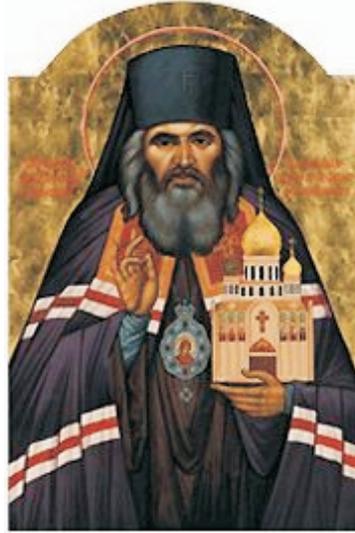




service for the dead. He was arrested for obstructing traffic. When questioned about his purpose, he told officials the site where he'd been standing was the unmarked grave of several faithful who'd been slaughtered in the French Revolution and disposed of without a Christian burial. Historical records were consulted, and St. John was proven correct.

November 21, 1962 saw the arrival of St. John in San Francisco, where he would preside over the Geary St. cathedral for the next four years. At the time of his arrival the Russian community there was in great upheaval. His assignment there was the direct result of several appeals for help made to the Synod of Bishops. The cathedral was only partially completed, finances were in disorder, and strife reigned. St. John saw to it the cathedral was completed and did so in rapid fashion. He was a strict upholder of Orthodoxy, taking a firm stand against ecumenism and forbidding his clergy to take part in any such joint services.

St. John went to his rest in peace on September 9, 1966, having literally fallen down before the wonderworking Kursk Icon of the Sign. His body lay in the sepulchre below the altar of the cathedral in a little room where the faithful could go to entreat St. John's prayers by having panikhidas sung over his coffin. On July 2, 1994, St. John Maximovich was officially recognized by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia as a saint. During the nine hour service, the relics were uncovered and found to be incorrupt, inarguable proof of the high degree of sanctity still dwelling within St. John's mortal frame.



### TROPARION HYMN TO SAINT JOHN (TONE FIVE)

Lo, thy care for thy flock during its sojourn /  
prefigured thy supplications which are ever  
offered up for the whole world: / Thus do we  
believe, having come to know thy love, / O  
holy hierarch and wonderworker John. /  
Wholly sanctified by the sacred celebration  
of the all-pure Mysteries, / whereby thou  
wast thyself ever strengthened, / thou didst  
hasten unto the suffering, O gladsome healer.  
Hasten thou now also to the aid of us // who  
honor thee with all our hearts.

## DESERT WISDOM BOOK ROOM

All Saints of North America  
Orthodox Church

[www.asna.ca](http://www.asna.ca)

(905) 318-6436

# Saint John Maximovich

*Missionary and Wonderworker  
of China and North America*



Born on June 4,  
1896, in Adamovka,  
Kharkov, Southern  
Russia. St. John was  
first given the name  
Michael, in honor of  
St. Michael the  
Archangel. From  
1907 to 1914 St.

John attended the Poltava Military School and  
the Kharkov Imperial University. He graduated  
in 1918 with a degree in law, practicing in the  
Kharkov District Court. In 1921 the turbulence  
in Russia caused the evacuation of his family to  
Belgrade. There he again entered university to  
graduate in 1925 with a further degree in  
theology. As a student, St. John sold  
newspapers to make a living.

In 1924 St. John was ordained as a reader. Two  
years later the same bishop made him a  
hierodeacon, giving him the name of John in  
honor of the other member of the Maximovitch  
family already glorified with sainthood, St.  
John of Tobolsk. After receiving the tonsure of  
monasticism, St. John never again slept in a  
bed.

St. John spent a number of years as a teacher,



first teaching religion at the Serbian State High School, then going on to act as teacher and tutor at the Serbian Seminary of St. John the Theologian at Bitol. By this time he'd been ordained to the priesthood, serving the Divine Liturgy in Greek for the Greek and Macedonian faithful who attended services.

On May 28th, 1934, St. John was consecrated bishop and assigned to the diocese of Shanghai. Such was his humility that when he was summoned for the consecration, he was sure there had been some mistake. He was dismayed to learn it was indeed him that had been chosen, but out of obedience he submitted. Once in Shanghai St. John organized an orphanage. He often went out into the streets, calling the homeless children to him, bringing them back to food, shelter, medical treatment and education. He also tended those children orphaned by their parents' efforts to get them out of Russia and away from the bloodshed and persecutions.

Like St. John of Kronstadt, for whom he had a great veneration, St. John Maximovich never missed a service, either serving Divine Liturgy every day or at the very least receiving Holy Communion. He healed many people through his prayers and is well known for tending the sick in hospitals.

Here's one example: St. John suffered a speech impediment made worse by his stringent fasting to

the point where the faithful couldn't understand him when he served the Divine Liturgy. A speech therapist was called in to teach him exercises that would help. Every time their "classes" ended, he would leave a twenty dollar bill on the table as he left. One night this teacher became very ill, so ill she had to be taken to the hospital. As she lay there, certain she was about to die, she cried out again and again for "Vladika" to come and help her. It was late at night, the hospital ward was locked, and a fierce storm raged outside. The nurses assumed she was delirious. At one point the teacher saw the door open. There stood St. John, carrying his kit for visiting the sick. His monastic habit was completely dry. He heard her Confession and gave her Holy Communion, praying over her and reassuring her before he left. In the morning, the teacher's condition was vastly improved. When she tried to tell everyone St. John had come to see her, they all thought it was some fever dream. Then, under her pillow, they discovered a twenty dollar bill.

St. John also made a habit of visiting the mentally ill and those who were possessed. He always made a very clear distinction between the two. Such people



In Tunis, 1952, surrounded by Uncreated Light



Shanghai cathedral, built under St John's direction in 1930s

would be calm for him, anticipating his visits with great happiness and receiving Holy Communion from him with all proper decorum.

In 1946 St. John was elevated to Archbishop over all the Russian faithful in China. When the Communist threat encroached on them, he evacuated his orphans to Tubabao, an island in the Phillipines. The refugee camp was right in the path of the seasonal typhoons. During the twenty-seven months St. John occupied the island, no typhoon ever struck it, and the only one to come close abruptly changed course.

Five years later St. John was reassigned to the Archdiocese of Western Europe, residing first in Paris, then in Brussels. He often attended the Synod of Bishops held in New York City. (St. John was forced to travel by air so much some people consider him the patron saint of air travel, much as St. Nicholas is revered by sailors.) Paris witnessed one of the most amazing examples of St. John's spiritual acumen. One day he took his case and a broom out into the middle of a busy Paris street. He swept the ground, laid down the eagle rug used by all bishops, then prepared his censer and began serving a panikhida, a memorial

基督永生之道

Calligraphy above: "Christ the Eternal Tao" (Word or Way)