



St. Elias the Prophet Church

Address: 46 Calle Electra, Santa Fe, NM 87508-9142

Phone: (505) 466-0015 • **Fax:** (505) 466-0015

Proistamenos Fr. Dimitrios Pappas

Parish Council President Frederika Vaupen

Bulletin Admin Malcolm Ennis

Services Schedule

Sundays: Orthros/Matins - 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

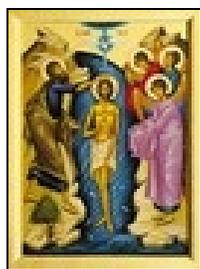
Saturdays: Vespers - 5:00 PM

Weekdays and Saturdays (as announced): Orthros/Matins - 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

WEEKLY BULLETIN

01/03/2016

Saints and Feasts



January 03

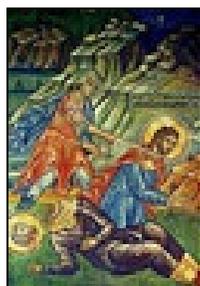
Sunday before Epiphany



January 03

Malachi the Prophet

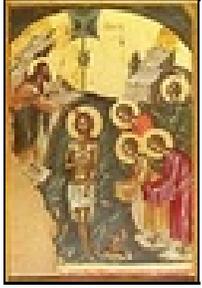
The Prophet Malachi ("messenger of God") is the last of the twelve minor Prophets, and also of all the Prophets of the Old Testament. He prophesied in the days of Nehemias, a wise man among the Jews, who also held a high and powerful position in the court of Artaxerxes the Long-armed, King of the Persians, who reigned from 465 to 424 B.C. Malachis' book of prophecy is divided into four chapters; he foretold the coming of Christ as the Sun of Righteousness (4:2)



January 03

Gordios the Martyr of Caesarea

The Martyr Gordios who was from Caesarea of Cappadocia, was a centurion by rank. Unable to bear the impiety of the heathen, he withdrew to the wilderness to purify himself through prayer and fasting. After he perceived that his ascetical training had prepared him sufficiently, he came down from the mountains when a certain pagan festival was held in Caesarea, attended by all, and presented himself before the multitude. Although the spectacles of the festival continued, no one paid them any heed, but all eyes were turned upon him. From his sojourn in the mountains, his look was wild, his beard was long, his raiment squalid, his body like a skeleton; yet a certain grace shone round about him. He was recognized, and a loud shout and tumult was made as his fellow Christians rejoiced, and the enemies of the truth cried out for his death. He boldly professed his faith before the Governor, and after torments was beheaded, in the reign of Licinius in the year 314. Saint Basil the Great delivered a homily on Saint Gordios, mentioning that some of those in his audience had been present at the saint's martyrdom (PG 31:497).



January 03

Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ



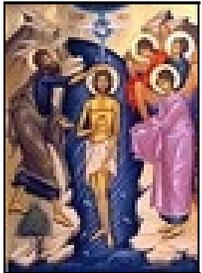
January 04

Synaxis of the 70 Holy Apostles

The Seventy Disciples and Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ are those Whom our Saviour chose in addition to the Twelve and sent forth unto the work of preaching. With the passage of time, others were added to their number by the Holy Apostles, who, with the accompaniment and assistance of the Seventy, were preaching the Gospel of Christ in various lands. Although their number eventually exceeded seventy, they were all nonetheless referred to as "of the Seventy" out of reverence for the number of Apostles which the Lord chose.

The divine Apostle and Evangelist Luke describes the calling and the sending forth of the Seventy as follows in his Holy Gospel (Luke 10:1-16): "After these things the Lord appointed another seventy disciples, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place, whither He Himself would come. Therefore said He unto them, the harvest is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth labourers into His harvest. Go then: behold, I send you forth as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry neither purse, nor bag, nor sandals: and greet no man on the way. And into whatsoever house ye enter first say, Peace be on this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it; if not, it shall turn to you again. And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you; And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveeth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding know ye this, that the Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city. Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be brought down to hades. He that heareth you heareth Me; and he that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me."

After the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord, and after Pentecost, on which all the Apostles and men and women disciples of Christ, together with the Most Holy Theotokos (some 120 in number), were gathered in the upper chamber, they received the grace of the All-holy Spirit and went forth throughout the ends of the world, everywhere preaching and teaching the Gospel of Christ, and leading to the true Faith the peoples who were sunk in the darkness of impiety and idolatry.



January 06

The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the

great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.



January 07

Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner

Today we celebrate the Synaxis in honour of the most sacred Forerunner, since he ministered at the Mystery of the Divine Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rest from labour. Fish allowed.

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνημῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωροῦμενος τὴν ζωὴν, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion for Forefeast of the Theophany in the Fourth Mode

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephtholim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

Ἐτοιμάζου Ζαβουλὼν, καὶ εὐτρεπίζου Νεφθαλεὶμ. Ἰορδάνη ποταμὲ, στήθι ὑπόδεξαι σκιρτῶν, τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ἐρχόμενον τὸν Δεσπότην. Ἀγάλλου ὁ Ἀδάμ σὺν τῇ Προμήτορι, μὴ κρύπτετε ἑαυτοὺς, ὡς ἐν Παραδείσῳ τὸ πρῖν, καὶ γὰρ γυμνοὺς ἰδὼν ὑμᾶς ἐπέφανεν, ἵνα ἐνδύσῃ τὴν πρώτην στολὴν, Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, τὴν πᾶσαν κτίσιν, θέλων ἀνακαινίσει.

Apolytikion for St. Elias in the First Mode

The incarnate Angel and the Prophets' summit and boast, the second fore-runner of the coming of Christ, Elias, the glorious, from above he has sent down his grace upon Elisha; he doth cast out sickness and also doth cleanse the lepers; and unto all that honor him, streams of cures he poureth forth.

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Ὁ ἐνσαρκὸς ἄγγελος, τῶν Προφητῶν ἡ κρηπίς, ὁ δεύτερος Πρόδρομος τῆς παρουσίας Χριστοῦ, Ἡλίας ὁ ἐνδοξος, ἀνωθεν καταπέμψας, Εἰσαίω τὴν χάριν, νόσους αποδιώκει, καὶ λεπρούς καθαρίζει, διὸ καὶ τοῖς τιμῶσιν αὐτὸν βρῦει ἰάματα.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Mode

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Ἐν τοῖς ρεῖθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, γεγονῶς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοᾷ. Μὴ δειλιάσης βαπτίσει με, σῶσαι γὰρ ἦκω, Ἀδάμ τὸν πρωτόπλαστον.

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Apolytikion for St. Elias ©
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Services and Information

Welcome to all visitors! Please join us for fellowship immediately following the Liturgy in the Social Hall. For those visiting an Orthodox Church for the first time, please be aware that Holy communion is a sign of unity of faith which is only offered to baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians. However, all present are welcome to partake of the antidoron (or blessed bread) which is distributed at the end of the service. Those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please see Fr. Dimitri Pappas after the service.

Visit the church web site: [<http://steliasnm.org/>](http://steliasnm.org/).

Services Schedule (unless otherwise noted)

Sundays: Orthros/Matins - 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Saturdays: Vespers - 5:00 PM

Weekdays and Saturdays (as announced): Orthros/Matins - 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

January and February 2016

3 Jan. (Sunday before Epiphany) prosphoron, Iggy Patsalis; coffee hour, Nia Parry.

6 Jan. (Wed., Holy Epiphany) prosphoron, Mary Santikos.

10 Jan. (Sunday after Epiphany) Vasilopita, Anna Patsalis; prosphoron, Fr. Dimitri Pappas; coffee hour, Diane Tintor and Mary O'Brien.

17 Jan. (12th Sunday of Luke) prosphoron and coffee hour, Niki Constantaras.

24 Jan. (14th Sunday of Luke) prosphoron and coffee hour, Mac Ennis.

31 Jan. (15th Sunday of Luke) prosphoron, Iggy Patsalis; coffee hour, Betsy Robeson.

2 Feb. (Tue., Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple) prosphoron, Fr. Dimitri Pappas.

7 Feb. (16th Sunday of Matthew) prosphoron and coffee hour, Frederika Vaupen.

14 Feb. (Sunday of the Canaanite Woman) prosphoron and coffee hour, April Dellas.

23 Feb. (Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee) prosphoron, **volunteer needed**; coffee hour, Bonnie Hardwick.

28 Feb. (Sunday of the Prodigal Son) prosphoron, Iggy Patsalis; coffee hour, Judy Brophy and Helen Skinas.

GOC Links

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver [<http://www.denver.goarch.org/>](http://www.denver.goarch.org/).

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America [<http://www.goarch.org/>](http://www.goarch.org/).

Orthodox Calendar [<http://www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar/>](http://www.goarch.org/chapel/calendar/).

Orthodox Observer [<http://www.goarch.org/news/observer/>](http://www.goarch.org/news/observer/).

Parish News and Events

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meeting — The next Parish Council meeting will be Sunday, January 10, after the Divine Liturgy.

Parish Council 2016

Congratulations to those elected or reelected to the Parish Council on November 29: Michelle Armijo, Tonya Boone, Mike Dellas, and Frederika Vaupen. The other members of the Parish Council in 2016 are April Dellas, Peter Manos, Diane Tintor, and Kerry Tramontanas. Thank you, Parish Council members! Your fellow parishioners are grateful for your service.

2015 Holiday Bake Sale — Message from Nia Parry, committee chairperson

Dear fellow parishioners and friends, the Holiday Bake Sale was a resounding success! We surpassed our goal and netted over \$6,000. This community effort couldn't have succeeded without the generosity of those who purchased pastries and donated ingredients and cash for expenses. Our praise, above all, goes to the bakers who offered their time and talents to produce the authentic high-quality Greek pastries for which St. Elias is known. Thank you ALL!

Albertson's Community Partners Program with our church ended at the end of December

We thank Albertson's for their support and all of our parishioners and friends who used the cards and key-ring tags!

2015 & 2016 Stewardship

We thank all of our members who have made a stewardship pledge to our parish of St. Elias the Prophet. Through your continued and loving support, the Parish Council and Fr. Dimitrios Pappas are able to serve as caretakers and deal with the needs and priorities that face our church. Please make a donation to fulfill your 2015 pledge commitment. Also, please complete your 2016 pledge card for the New Year and return it to the church at your convenience. Thank you!

Next spring, the iconographers will complete their work!

The iconographers Maria Sigala and Niko Spanopoulos will return to our church next spring to complete the iconography project that was begun years ago. This monumental effort has greatly beautified our church! We are still seeking money to pay the final balance due. If you would like to be part of this historic endeavor please call Fr. Dimitri or send your iconography fund donations to the church. Thank you to all of those who have already donated!

Recycling for St. Elias

The church can recycle your used toner cartridges and inkjet cartridges and receive a donation for their value. When it's time to get a new cartridge, please bring the used one to church, in its packing if possible, and we will recycle it. Every bit that we recycle means more funds for our parish. Please help with this free and painless way to raise money and protect the environment.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Matins Gospel Reading

Ninth Orthros Gospel

The Reading is from John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Ninth Orthros Gospel

Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 20:19-31

Οὔσης οὖν ὥρας τῆ ἡμέρα ἐκείνη τῆ μᾶ τῶν σαββάτων, καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων ὅπου ἦσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ συνηγμένοι διὰ τὸν φόβον τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. καὶ τοῦτο εἶπὼν ἔδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ. ἔχαρσαν οὖν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες τὸν Κύριον. εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν· εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. καθὼς ἀπέσταλκέ με ὁ πατήρ, καὶ ἐγὼ πέμπω ὑμᾶς. καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύση καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· λάβετε Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον· ἅν τινων ἀφήτε τὰς ἁμαρτίας, ἀφίενται αὐτοῖς, ἅν τινων κρατήτε, κεκράτηνται.

Θωμᾶς δὲ εἷς ἐκ τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ λεγόμενος Δίδυμος, οὐκ ἦν μετ' αὐτῶν ὅτε ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς. ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ οἱ ἄλλοι μαθηταί· ἐώρακαμεν τὸν Κύριον. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἐὰν μὴ ἴδω ἐν ταῖς χερσὶν αὐτοῦ τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλω τὸν δάκτυλόν μου εἰς τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλω τὴν χεῖρά μου εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ, οὐ μὴ πιστεύσω. Καὶ μεθ' ἡμέρας ὀκτὼ πάλιν ἦσαν ἔσω οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ Θωμᾶς μετ' αὐτῶν. ἔρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων, καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον καὶ εἶπεν· εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. εἶτα λέγει τῷ Θωμᾶ· φέρε τὸν δάκτυλόν σου ὧδε καὶ ἴδε τὰς χεῖράς μου, καὶ φέρε τὴν χεῖρά σου καὶ βάλε εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν μου, καὶ μὴ γίνου ἄπιστος, ἀλλὰ πιστός. καὶ ἀπεκρίθη Θωμᾶς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου. λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ὅτι ἐώρακάς με, πεπίστευκας· μακάριοι οἱ μὴ ἰδόντες καὶ πιστεύσαντες. Πολλὰ μὲν οὖν καὶ ἄλλα σημεῖα ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐνώπιον τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, ἃ οὐκ ἔστι γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ· ταῦτα δὲ γέγραπται ἵνα πιστεύσητε ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἵνα πιστεύοντες ζωῆν ἔχητε ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8.

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Προκείμενον. Plagal Second Mode. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1.

Σώσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8.

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πάσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πάσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

Gospel Reading

Sunday before Epiphany

The Reading is from Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sunday before Epiphany

Κατὰ Μάρκον 1:1-8

Ἄρχη τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἑτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεισιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπ' αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδευμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφὺν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἱκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

Wisdom of the Fathers

For in a contest there is much labor needed--and after the contest victory falls to some, to others disgrace. Is the palm ever given or the crown granted before the course is finished? ... Therefore no one can receive a reward, unless he has striven lawfully; nor is the victory a glorious one, unless the contest also has been toilsome.

St. Ambrose of Milan

Chapter 15, Three Books on the Duties of the Clergy, 4th century

It is the sole and peculiar property of the Substance that transcends all, to be able to bestow on men the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and make those that draw near unto it partakers of the divine nature.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke, Homily 10., 4th Century