

Venerable Johannicius the Great

Saint Joannicius the Great was born in Bithynia in the year 752 in the village of Marikat. His parents were destitute and could not provide him even the basics of an education. By order of the emperor Leo IV, young Joannicius was drafted into the imperial army. He earned the respect of his fellow soldiers for his good disposition, but he was also a brave soldier who struck fear in the hearts of his enemies. Saint Joannicius served in the imperial army for six years. Saint Joannicius, having renounced the world, longed to go at once into the wilderness. However, on the advice of an Elder experienced in monastic life, he spent a further two years at the monastery. Here the saint became accustomed to monastic obedience, to monastic rules and practices. He studied reading and writing, and he learned thirty Psalms of David by heart. Only after twelve years of ascetic life did the hermit accept monastic tonsure. The saint spent three years in seclusion after being tonsured. Saint Joannicius spent seventy years in ascetic deeds and attained to a high degree of spiritual perfection. Through the mercy of God the saint acquired the gift of prophecy, as his disciple Pachomius has related. Foreseeing his death, Saint Joannicius fell asleep in the Lord on November 4, 846, at the age of 94.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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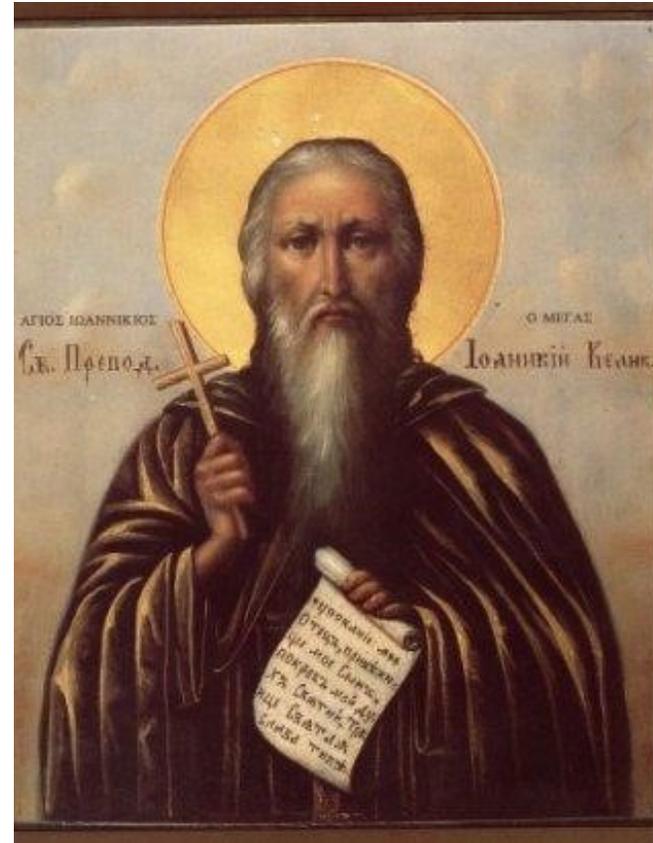
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Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, November 4th, 2018

*Venerable Johannicius the Great; Hieromartyrs Nicander and
Hermas*

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

