



Main Church *Iconography*

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

TOGETHER, LET US ADORN OUR PARISH

Sponsor an Icon today!



St. Nikolaos Planas

March 2



The holy saint Papa-Nikolaos (Planas) of Athens (1851-1932) was officially glorified as a saint by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in 1992. He was born on the island of Naxos in Greece. His feast day is celebrated on March 2, except when it falls during Great Lent, and then it is celebrated on the first Sunday following March 2.

Papa Nikolaos was married and the father of one child. He was married at 17, but his wife died only a few years later, and so he spent the rest of his life in celibacy, his only aspiration being to serve the Church. He was ordained a deacon on July 28, 1879, at the Church of the Transfiguration in Plaka, Greece, and a priest on March 2, 1884, at the Church of the Holy Prophet Elisha.

His focus for over 50 years was to serve daily the Divine Liturgy, vigils, and other services. He never missed a Liturgy, and spent most of his time in the very small church of St. John the Hunter

in Athens, Greece. The parish initially contained only eight families. He never refused to commemorate and pray for anyone when he served, and he carried in his pockets slips of paper containing thousands of names whom he would pray for during the proskomedia and the Liturgy.

Numerous stories are told of his being lifted in prayer and of the acolytes seeing him raised off the ground in front of the altar during the Liturgy. While he would begin Liturgy at eight in the morning, he typically would not finish until two or three in the afternoon. When he was not able to serve at the church of St. John, he would always serve elsewhere.