



Main Church *Iconography*

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

TOGETHER, LET US ADORN OUR PARISH

Sponsor an Icon today!



Saint Luke of Crimea

May 29 & June 11



Saint Luke, Bishop of Simferopol and Crimea, the Blessed Surgeon, served the church while he was also a practicing surgeon.

Born with the name Valentine Felixovitch Voino-Yassentsky, his family members were civil servants to Lithuanian and Polish kings. He received his religious inheritance from his pious father. His first true understanding of the Christian faith came from the New Testament given to him at his high school graduation by his principal.

St. Luke decided to pursue a career where he could help people who suffer, and chose to be a physician. He eventually became the head surgeon and professor of surgery at the hospital in Tashkent. Lenin took over the government and disfavored any religious witness. Valentine was under constant threat, but refused to operate under any circumstances without the Icon of the Mother of God.

His results were outstanding. Living in the Ukraine during the oppressive period of communism, St. Luke stood out among his fellow physicians both as a surgeon and as a Christian.

The Archpriest invited Valentine to the priesthood. Eventually, Fr. Valentine was arrested and put on trial, falsely accused of giving inappropriate surgical care to injured Red Army soldiers. He was convicted to sixteen years imprisonment.

Apolytikion: O physician and shepherd, let us all honor Luke, as Simferopol's shepherd and a radiant Archpriest, who bore Christ's divine marks, exiles, dangers, being locked within prisons, tribulations and persecution, for in the last days has shown forth, in Russia a new Saint.