

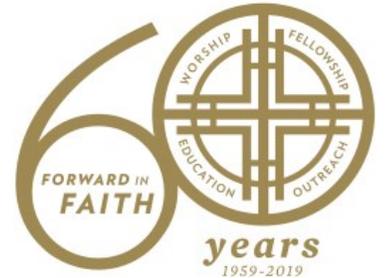


Main Church *Iconography*

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

TOGETHER, LET US ADORN OUR PARISH

Sponsor an Icon today!



Saint David of Salonika

June 26



Our Venerable and God-bearing Father David of Thessaloniki, also known as David the Dendrite, was a renowned ascetic and blessed fool of Thessaloniki in Byzantine Greece, who lived as a tree dweller for three years, in a form of asceticism similar to that of the Stylite saints. Saint David came from Northern Mesopotamia, which was a great monastic center, and traveled to Thessaloniki together with the monk, Adolas.

In Thessaloniki, David became a monk at a young age, at the Monastery of Sts. Theodore and Mercurius, also known as Koukouliaton Monastery. The examples of holy men of the Old Testament prompted the Venerable David to live his ascetic ordeals by climbing up an almond tree and living there for three years, until the Lord would reveal His Will to him. He endured the most extreme trials like the Stylite saints: the bitter cold of winter and the burning heat of summer, being fully exposed to all the elements. At the end of the three years, an angel appeared to him, assuring him that his prayers had been heard, and that the period of his trial as a dendrite had ended. The angel instructed him to descend from the tree, and continue the ascetic life in silence in a cell. Living as a recluse in a cell, many people came to seek his prayers and healings of demonic possession, diseases and suffering. After many years of seclusion, he emerged from his cell and miraculously convinced Justinian that the status of Thessaloniki remain uninterrupted.

Apolytikion: The image of God, was faithfully preserved in you, O Father. For you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By Your actions you taught us to look beyond the flesh for it passes, rather to be concerned about the soul which is immortal. Wherefore, O Holy David, your soul rejoices with the angels.